



**WHY CANADA
NEEDS THE
MONARCHY**
(Even if it's these two)

BY ANDREW COYNE P. 26

AMIEL
GOD HELP
DOGS P.14

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

**CANADA VS.
GARY BETTMAN**

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PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS/GETTY IMAGES



'Repeating old gossip adds nothing to an interesting article on Camilla's positive attributes'

MUNICIPAL MADNESS

READING your cover story "Montreal is a disaster" (*National News*), I feel enormous amounts of bad feelings being illegitimately flung by someone to work at the 1976 Montreal Olympics. The billions of life and lives have been spent in Montreal for decades. Quebec language laws forced many businesses to leave Montreal and locate elsewhere, hurting its economy. Thus, I find it strange why the light is only now illuminating the fact that Montreal's glory days are gone. **Larry Cousens, Ottawa**

MONTREAL, which yet again is suffering because of corruption, has, in recent years, tried to distract its apparently apathetic citizenry with an endless number of overlapping spectacles, sponsored by the highly notorious *Corruption*. Moreover, during these festive and festive city-fitter, graffiti, the homeless, and buildings and overflows that have been abandoned for years. Adding to the visual pollution is the city's deteriorating infrastructure, its lack of decent, or top-heavy municipal government, and widespread urban corruption, revealed for all to see in your excellent article. **Richard Orloski, Montreal**

THEY MATRONS and the Hills Angels are more perfect predators compared to the Queen's job as an inviolable Canada. Kindly eradicate your time and resources to overcome the massive levels of corruption in your own territory. **Kathleen Marie Deasy, Val-de-Mont, Que.**

YOUR STORY on the serious problems within Montreal's municipal government was certainly relevant, but could you lay on a bit thicker? To depict the state of Montreal in your headline as a "disaster" because of shenanigans at city hall is analogous to calling the city of Toronto a distant frontier zone during Matt Lauer's reign as mayor. **Roberto Rios, Saint-Laurent, Que.**

YOUR COVER STORY was not nearly as dramatic as the headlines suggested. Yes, Montreal has infrastructure problems. The ill of North America, where there has been neglect since the building boom of the 1960s. Some of our have been there since the 1930s. But one of the reasons Quebec and Montreal have been less affected by the current recession is

because it had already reaped its fruits. Yes, there has been mismanagement of contracts but in Quebec we expect it and we deal with it. Quebecers, perhaps sensitive to the bad old days of Duplessis, jump on corrupt politicians, as they did in the 1950s and 1960s. As for the rest, any watching The Supreme. That is one of the subtle rules on the continent. **Ron Franklin, Montreal**

ROMA, BRIGANDAGE and fraud in Montreal, I can tell you that nothing is new here. This is and has always been Montreal. Corruption in construction has always been the "secret"

Montreal's residents have greater local access to their officials to deal with local issues. It is not the size of the municipal government that slows down projects like the bus and rail networks. Many major actions through the city are actually under provincial control, and some major bridges are federal, not municipal, responsibilities. Paragroup needs to spend some time in the respected Phoenix area, south of Lake Laurent, to learn the real world of new condos in the old Montreal area, and how people are moving closer to the city centre in new developments. As for crime, the Hills Angels exist across Canada. Can Paragroup show me a clubhouse in the Montreal area? The most visible signs have long disappeared and much of misbehavior is behind bars. The last time I looked, the murder rate was higher in at least three other Canadian cities. **Gloria Ginn, Oshawa, Ont.**

A ROYAL MESS

IN *MAGLEAN'S* part of the royal couple's public relations team? Did the article "Camilla's scandalous" (*Society*, Nov. 9) attempt to persuade liberal Canadian fans of Diana to view her claim favourably by vilifying everyone but Camilla with comments like "pathologically needy" (*Diana*) or the "viral queen" (*Society*)? You are actually holding Diana and Sarah accountable for their past indiscretions, but not Charles or Camilla. No one has come out of this unscathed. Everyone behaved badly. I am pleased that Charles finally has a happy marriage with Camilla. Let the dead rest, let's celebrate everyone's present success and anticipate better in the future. Three cheers for happy middle-aged marrieds! **Maria Dalkoussian, Montreal**

HOW CAN any writer ignore the dominating criminal past Prince Charles and his mistress, indicated on the very young and naive girl he is willingly married? This article overlooks the fact that she and her mistress carried on their affair throughout the marriage without making much attempt to hide their betrayal. Princess Diana had the reputation of a happy marriage and family, the inter-colonial of her husband's attitude and behaviour, encouraged and abused by a woman of equal mind, has been down several times. For this article dwells on what a wonderful, caring woman the duchess

of Cornwall is, and how fulfilled the happy couple is now that they are together. The thought that Prince Charles may one day become king is England with his "journey to the core" made by his title is quite enough to cause many people to quit the monarchy. **A. R. Craig, Mississauga, Ont.**

SO CAMILLA is charming? Of course she is charming in the stock in trade of the coronation. When the reign of Queen Elizabeth ends, it will be time to return the monarchy and elect our own head of state. **Maureen McCauley, Brampton, Ont.**

WHAT COULD have been a positive story about Camilla and Charles or a positive story to Canada as a couple has been reduced to a lie. Repeating old gossip adds nothing to what could have been an interesting article.

after apprehending a thief (see "Fighting inquest," *Newsweek*, Nov. 9). Later in the issue, Philip Clayton wonders if "his guards really have the right to search our laptops." I spent most of August seven years in the Middle East where my rights were always infringed upon for the good of the country and it did not bother me at all. The Internet was censored, and when someone committed a crime they were punished swiftly not with years of prison on appeal. As Canadians, we spend too much time and too much of our money on lawyers worrying about whether our rights are being infringed upon. Stop tying the hands of our law enforcement people by repeating the news and supporting the newspapers. All we end up with is a lot of wealthy lawyers and an overworked court system. **Dan Warner, Bedford, N.S.**

ations. Should we all just sit ourselves off on ice bars after retirement?

Janet A. Knap, Victoria

BROUGHT TO TEARS

I ALWAYS read the last page first, and love reading about extraordinary Canadians that walk amongst us. The story about Justin Weaver (*The End*, Nov. 9) brought me tears to my eyes. What an amazing young man he was, who touched everyone he met. Well done. **Wes Thewissen, Chatham, N.C.**

A MAN DIVIDED

YOUR HEADLINE asks, "What happened, Michael? Ignored?" (*National*, Nov. 21). It is not a question of what he's become since he was a child. The Liberal leadership, it's more a matter of the party making a poor

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on Camilla's positive attributes. I also find it offensive to refer to Queen Elizabeth as "a far MP." Just that author is a class act. **Gillian Peck, Dawson, B.C.**

RIGHTS AND WRONGS

IN PHILIP CLAYTON's rant against the power that coronation officials have to search coroners' ("Crowning the lie," *Justice*, Nov. 9), he seems to have forgotten the fact that child pornography requires horrible abuse of children. I welcome any inquiry, even the invasion of my privacy, if it will protect a child, even here or on the other side of the world, from such abuse. There was nothing to hide here nothing to fear. **Marlene Africa, Guelph, Ont.**

TORONTO GLOUCESTER David Chen "What was charged for "defending his merchandise"

PUT TO PASTURE

YIKES, outburst me now! I'm a bad cat! I don't have the wherewithal to save for my retirement. Any pension plan I was awarded out to be a scam on the part of the employer. I'm 55 and want to retire now, though I can't because, and the word of my old man: "Downsided Dream" (*Business*, Nov. 9). I would be determined to save for the day when I would be "retired," as one of your sources has mentioned. This "insurance" is a nightmare to contemplate because of the high cost of old age. You don't mention the fact that older people also spend money, not just on retirement. I am simply that a man's only option on society is to live much of a vacation they are on the retirement budget. My daily business are constantly threatened by the message that we will have to live as far as to nothing because we're perpetually sucking off the young or gov-

ernment for a leader. They're not a cashed for that. The problem with Ignorance is that he is too content, even for his own party. He's such an intellectual that one can't get a straight answer out of him, on any topic, because he wants to avoid the bees. When talking about his popularity as a leader in the last few months, he readily admits that he's not "had the greatest answers," but then goes on to say that it's been an "unforgettable experience and a positive one." No wonder Canadians don't know where he stands in a particular issue. He can't take a stand on himself. **J. P. Long, Langford, B.C.**

PROTECTING PENSIONS

YOUR ARTICLE "Hanging out today" (*National*, Oct. 3), which refers to the pensioners' defined benefit pension plan, is being set at 22 per cent



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WHAT DO YOU WANT TO CREATE?

[illegible]

underfunded, is inaccurate and serves to undermine the goodwill that Neuen has so carefully cultivated with respect to the security of its pension promise. By neglecting to consider all the information that accompanied the financial tables in the pension disclosure in our annual report, a well secured pension program was incorrectly portrayed as dire and significantly underfunded. Pension regulations limit the amount by which we can directly fund the obligation (not efficiently). We have secured the success of this supplemental obligation

unlike the information which had earlier appeared in the first volume of Tinsley's official Trudeau biography, *Citizen of the World*. In that first volume, the reference to my relationship to Trudeau were largely erroneous. What I did not know was that my letters to Trudeau (probably like those of many other people) had not been destroyed prior to his death. They then became the property of Archives Canada. Unknown to myself, they were then used by English to create a story about Trudeau's early years (informally, since I sent some correspondence



diagram depicts her relationship with Tradeau as a deep and sincere friendship.

through an irrevocable line of credit which allows pension members to look to the underlying bank if we are unable to pay when required. Secondly, the remaining portion of the unfunded obligation arose from the significant deterioration in the investment performance of the fund in 2008. In response, we made a special top up payment into the fund early this year to cover the maximum amount of the shortfall permitted by pension legislation. Following this, our defined benefit pension plan is, in fact, about 95 per cent secured. This type of disclosure reporting is disarming on several fronts. It creates concern among our employees and retirees, and is a dark smudge on our corporate reputation.

Kevin Kraschert, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Nexen Inc., Calgary

PIEDDE AND ...

SOAR LEVELS and increasing talk about the marriage between Pierre Winkler and Margaret Seidler ("Pierre & Maggie: the untold story," *History*, Nov. 7), taken from John English's book *Just Which Mr.*, has been brought to my attention. There are some references to myself in that article, which is an ill-willed and entitled to be so, as a source

or corrected by the author, many of the letters were misinterpreted or quoted out of context. My relationship with Trudeau had indeed been long-term and of a more intimate nature than appears here in the new *Evolution of a Story and Memoirs*, including that endured until his death. Neither the author nor English was aware of this when he wrote the first book. As you know, Trudeau loved his doctors! When John English and I finally met, and he became aware of what had happened, it was too late to do anything as the book had already been published. But he let us know that in subsequent editions, as well as this new book, he would do his best to make the changes. Since I have not yet read *Until We Die*, I was happy to find in your article that some of these changes are being made.

Carroll Graham, Mount St. Helens, Ore.

We welcome readers to submit letters to either letters@maclean.ca or to Maclean's, 11th floor, One Mount Pleasant Road, Toronto, Ont M5V 1Y5. Please supply your name, address and daytime telephone number. Letters should be less than 300 words, and may be edited for space, style and clarity.



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BLOGS



ANDREW POTTER
If Charles hopes to win over those Canadians who disagreed with the statement that the prime minister has a special role in the future of the country, he'd better be prepared to keep his thoughts on the future to himself. Charles certainly doesn't have it worse for the future, he states it. macleans.ca/potter



ANDREW COYNE
There is a case for an all-party caucus with so much common ground. It is not going to be for him to vote as their conscience or their constituents would wish it. It's a political strategy. macleans.ca/coyne

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WEB POLL RESULTS

How closely will you be following Prince Charles and Camilla's visit to Canada?

Only when I get a chance (18%)

As closely as possible—it's an honour to have them (43%)



I'll be doing my best to ignore them (39%)

THIS WEEK'S POLL macleans.ca/poll



Blake D. Johnson reviews *Heat* (R) starring Philip Seymour Hoffman as a reg-movie DJ aboard a ship in the North Sea. macleans.ca/johnson

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CADILLAC



A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF HUGO CHÁVEZ

Let's not lose a day in fulfilling our main mission: to get past fear," that's what the Venezuelan president on Sunday. Chávez is upset over neighboring Colombia's decision to grant the U.S. Army access to its military bases. Colombian President Álvaro Uribe claims the agreement with the U.S. is part of a joint effort to clamp down on drug traffickers and guerrillas, but Chávez is convinced Uribe is helping America gain a secure position in South America.

Good news

Lest we forget

Soon as it's Canadian election time, the two answers of silence that we find in our country's history are the two answers of silence that we find in our country's history. It should be made mandatory, according to an Ipsos-Reid poll. We wholeheartedly agree—it's the least we can do for the brave men and women who have fought bravely and sacrificed their lives to ensure our freedoms. Which is why we are disappointed that the phone pollsters at Ipsos-Reid are asking a mind about being forced to sing O Canada every day. But the two answers of silence, the answers in a small but significant side to our country—there's no reason why you don't should be taught to appreciate Canadian values.

Smithman vs. Tory

It doesn't seem to get interesting again. George Smithman, a cabinet minister in Gordon Brown's Conservative government, was named his opponent to run for mayor of Toronto. But he has a big opponent will be Conservative veteran John Tory. With two high-profile candidates throwing their hats in the ring—each with competing talents and political allures—the mayoral race should provide a compelling campaign for a city in desperate need of one. Canada's biggest city—literally and figuratively—is a mess, so who ever wins will have a massive cleanup task on his hands.

Irags go to the polls

Irags go to the polls. Irags can mark Jan. 21, 2010, on their calendar—that's the day they will go to the polls. After weeks of anticipation, the long-awaited election finally passed in election law, allowing the vote, which would go ahead as planned, though

Why did it happen?

The killing spree at the Port Hood, B.C., U.S. Army base is a major tragedy that could have been prevented. This town once people are dead, and so more wounded, at the hands of Maj. Nidal Malik Hane, an army psychiatrist. American officials first cautioned the media and everyone else from blaming Hane's Muslim background—which seemed a sensible warning. But we have since learned of his affiliation with a radical

Bad news

for a federally regulated RCMP review body—the inclusion of the officer will surely raise fresh controversy. We are sure that the RCMP will be able to provide an answer. When another breaks the law—especially in such a dangerous way—it is an unacceptable failure of duty.

Don't go, Mahmoud

We never thought we would be sad to see Mahmoud Abbas end from the Middle Eastern stage, but we are. The Palestinian Authority president's announcement that he would not seek reelection in January elections has many fearing that terrorist group Hamas, which already controls Gaza, will try to take over the West Bank, too. Abbas has not proven himself to be a useful partner in protected peace negotiations with Israel, and yet he remains the most viable partner for Israel and the U.S. to work with. The stage seems, the prospects for peace go with him.

Band breakup

Steven Tyler is apparently out of the saddle. According to gossip websites, the Aerosmith front man has quit the band to work on solo projects. Aerosmith, which had been together for more than 35 years, is considered one of the greatest rock groups ever known for its catchy riffs and Tyler's flamboyant vocals. Perhaps the worst news from the story is that the rest of the band is considering replacing Tyler with a new singer—a move that we doubt would lead to artistic success. If Tyler is indeed gone for good, we hope the Black and Roll Hall of Fame group moves. We'll miss the music and memories of Aerosmith's journey that what would surely be a mediocre Aerosmith 2.0. ■

FACE OF THE WEEK



ROYAL FUSION: Britain's Prince Harry and girlfriend Cheryl Cole shared a romantic moment between England and Australia in London.

Tabby pride

The cat is back! With a 30-10 win over the Winnipeg Blue Bombers on Sunday, the Hamilton Tiger-Cats clinched a CFL playoff spot for the first time in 66 years. In between playoff berths, the Cat-enthusiast one of the warm areas of hockey in league history (just last year, the team finished the season with a 3-13 record). Among the other teams joining them are the Saskatchewan Roughriders, who finished first in the CFL's West division for the first time in 33 years. In an eight-team league, that's a long, long time.

Is there more information the FBI apparently know about his close-up to investigate further. But authorities taken a closer look, this category might never have happened.

RCMP hypocrisy

Drunk driving kills. It's a message we've heard over and over again from law enforcement agencies. But those words are ringing a little hollow when a Vancouver RCMP officer was arrested for driving while under the influence—just over, but not in August, the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP called



SLOW Harper is operating as if he expects to be around for a while, the Liberals hope the hard choices ahead will grind him down

Maybe we'll have an election in...2011



PAUL WELLS

"I don't think 2011 should be out of the question," a Liberal MP told me, leaning in conspiratorially. For what? A summer fall of sunshine? A return to three barren jackdaws? Not an election? The MP said, "The guy's drinking, which I've often learned is shared by at least a few other senior Libs even in Ottawa, it is so funny. The polls don't favour Michael Ignatieff right now, but haven't since he announced in September he would work to bring down the Harper government at the first chance. Indeed the polls have been as unkind too for the Liberals that Ignatieff has had to announce his resignation announcement. Now he's in no hurry to replace the Harper government. Some Liberals suspect Ignatieff placed his inexperienced, poorly connected chief of staff, Ian Dewy, with the old Chairman era that Peter Donald became Dewy didn't foresee the popular backlash against Ignatieff's 'Mr. Harper, your time is up' announcement."

Will there be an election this summer, will there be one in the spring? Perhaps not the Vancouver/Whistler Olympics are in February, and for some reason an extended overcast/overcast has sprung up that decision must not be held near the Olympics. A federal

budget will soon follow the Olympics. A budget gives the Harper Conservatives a chance to spend some \$1.90 billion. It's not easy to make enemies while spending \$2.90 billion. So deep in summer, when we didn't have an election, followed by summer when we must have an election, I forget why not. That's what we do in Ottawa these days: stare at the calendar, shaking our heads.

Anyway, by late 2010, the recession will be well and underway, and (my Liberal candidate) reassured (there'll be no more of this stimulus spending). Instead, the government, who ever forms it, will be left-rightwing to get out of debt. Since left-rightwing is never pleasant or popular, Liberals are thinking it might as well be Harper who is stuck with doing it. One the way work a little time to grind Harper down, and suddenly it's 2011.

Let's go with this theory but not where it leads us. For one thing, Harper would by 2011 have passed Alexander MacKenzie, Lester Pearson and—sure high—maybe even Bill Bennett as longest-serving prime minister. Canada's 10th longest serving prime minister (it'd need almost another year after that) is catch up to John Diefenbaker. What's perhaps more significant is that the very atmosphere in the capital would change, and not so soon either. Instead of concealing from the crisis of parliamentary confidence

to the next, the government and its opposition might finally have the luxury to take the longish view. That could come in handy for all of them. Whether in government or opposition, they all have work they've been postponing because they weren't sure they'd have the time to do it.

All of this seems already to have occurred to Harper. Lately he's started taking steps that indicate he'll be around for a while. His trips to India and China. His Supreme Court reference on Ontario's right to establish a national securities regulator. His judicial enquiry into the collapse of the Pacific salmon fishery. The latter two, especially, will take more than a year to play out. Harper appears to be biding his time. He'll wait for the Prime Minister when the time comes to act on their confidence. It's been so long it's as if we had a government that thought about the long term (that the very prospect of a long and a bad outcome, but good for him, even if they're wrong in his calculations, Harper is beginning work that will serve his successor well).

Michael Ignatieff, naturally, goes to do the work that will improve his chances of being Harper's successor. He, too, has already begun. He made do for nearly a year with temporary help to run the Office of the Leader of the Opposition. Now Donald can give the place structure and order, really for the first time since 2006. New recruits "broken" from Ignatieff's period when he thought he'd have to fight Bob Rae for the Liberal leadership and probably now heavily respect person. It was to happen in September and is now scheduled for early 2010. Ignatieff's natural need is to impose a Hippocratic

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on his on this thing, first, at least do no harm to his leadership. So it mustn't degenerate into a forum for childish outbidding or a source of quotes for future Conservative attack ads. If it actually produces any ideas that's the sign of success.

One other party must adjust to the younging chaos of now come first lies ahead. Jack Layton's NDP doesn't get much attention around Ottawa these days, but viewed properly, that's a problem. Layton decided in January he would do the opposite of what ever Ignatieff did. When Ignatieff was down, he went to avoid an election, Layton was not. Ignatieff's failure to move forward and making his own's destiny. When Ignatieff reversed policy in September, so did Layton. Suddenly he was the Only Man Who Wanted Parliament To Work. If Ignatieff's moves have been dumb, Layton's must be dumber. And yet, in poll after poll, the New Democrats can't get off the floor. I think Layton has been a good leader for the NDP, but there seems to be a ceiling to his appeal. Now that the party has tried to replace him, he must ask himself whether he got that process started by leading in his resignation. ■

ON THE WEB For more Paul Wells visit his blog at www.paulwells.ca/ottawaworld

Dogs are victims in a scary war



BARBARA AMIEL

Looking at life from a dog's point of view can reinforce common sense and remind the Boko Wala, which reminded 20 years ago. Thousands of dogs poked their snouts and tails out that they were all out of a job—some 75 per cent of the population. The good dog of choice was the Caucasian ocherka, which co-existence is a dog I hope to add to my own Hungarian hound's list are up to. Some people rescue home less dogs, I look for native European breeds who share in our sense of Jewish identity to the extent, in that part of the world, historically speaking, someone will try and do this.

The wall fell and West Berliners found packs of ocherkas straining into the city. Given the dog was (up to 60 kg) and its heritage—carrying the threat out of wolves and escapes alike—I can't blame them. Just a month earlier, after brutally repressing demonstrations before the October took a

Mikhail Gorbachev to East Berlin and freeing more, the mysterious East chief Eric Miller said, "I will now show that our authority still has teeth." [Annoyed] are cowardly dogs, they will not like to take on men to they've seen our dogs."

West Berlin was spared. Most "wild dogs" used to have been shot, some twice by guards, and informally by Berliners. Though my own heart belongs to the hound, I can't think of a more humane or physically striking dog on this earth than the ocherka, definitely not a breed that most but a great lack of allowed to become extinct. The Montreal dog park film festival this year showed the Finnish still don't film by night, edited *Schweinchen* for English speaking audiences. A Finnish family rescue a puppy for their daughter when the Berlin Wall falls, not realizing it is no ocherka. The sweet, suddenly puppy grows up to become a devoted protector of his young owner.



THE MAGNIFICENT OCHERKA

The trailer showing a full grown ocherka in all its glory is at www.schweinchen.org

As go the Caucasians so were the ocherkas. Originally shepherd dogs, with an ancient history, they were loyal guardians followed by their owners. As politics changed so did their fates. Ocherkas were first mentioned in large numbers by Soviet commentators who feared private ownership, thus subjected to a severe population transfer, when Stalin unseated them for his state herds in the 1930s. More recently, two staged ocherkas were kept by Georgian exiled Asian. His shadow to protect his 13 year old son in the Black Sea "republic" of Abkhaz before finally, in 2006, Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili managed to chase him out. Thousands of Caucasians killed over 20 years. I live blissfully with her seven in Ontario and I recommend her narrative book *Caucasian Ocherka* with its 300 photos if you're interested in the breed.

My own houndbook was a breed also rare denied by Soviet when they invaded Hungary in the Second World War. I suppose I can't blame the Russians. Being confronted by a loyal hound protecting his firm territory might be amusing, and I can't blame the hound for changing—they were unlikely to have been told of the upcoming regime change. The breed was all but exterminated. Most local guardian dogs belong to a group loosely known as Molossers, which include breeds as disparate as ocherkas, hound, rumanian pit bull types, mastiffs and Akita in

December, the film based on the life of the adopted Japanese Akita "Hachiko," starring Richard Gere, will be released. Hachiko was the companion of a Japanese professor in the 1920s. When the professor died at work, Hachiko, though adopted by the professor's relatives, returned daily for nine years to the train station, waiting for the professor's return. After the Second World War, when Akita had suffered the usual ravages of war, a statue of him was put up at the Tokyo station housing his devotees.

Every dog owner knows that devotion, indisputably returned to an unconditional love. I walk on in myself, though I can't help noticing that the depth of affection in my dogs' eyes is irrationally deeper when I have food in my hand. Dogs need food and shelter from us, we humans want their hearts. Hachiko's tale tells us more about the culture of Japan than that of the dog. In that structured, just war society, people often led solitary lives during his devotion.

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Barbara Amiel is a columnist for www.ottawaworld.com

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MITCHEL RAPHAEL ON WHO'S IN CHARGE IF THE PM GETS SWINE FLU AND THE BIKER MOVIE PARTY

WHICH MPS ARE GETTING THE SWINE FLU SHOT?

When it comes to the H1N1 vaccine, some MPs are weighing their options. Trade Minister **Stockwell Day** says he will talk to his doctor, he never gets even the regular flu shots. **Justin Trudeau** has also never had a regular flu shot, but is considering getting the H1N1 vaccine since he is now a father. NDP Leader **Jack Layton** and his MP wife, **Olivia Chow**, always get their flu shots and will get the H1N1 vaccine when it is widely available. Liberal MP **Ruby Bhalla**, who is also a chiropractor, will get it too. She also always gets her flu shots. Because of his asthma, **Stephen Harper** would be considered in the high-risk category, but he plans to wait a while. (Obviously the PM and his family will all be vaccinated against H1N1.) Should the PM become incapacitated for any reason, not just once the Foreign Affairs Minister **Lawrence Cannon** has been chosen by Harper to take over, until the Tories have no deputy PM.

UNFORTUNATELY, HE HATES FISH. ESPECIALLY COD.

The Canadian Aquaculture Industry Alliance held a press party to persuade MPs to create a federal aquaculture act. The group wants to streamline the current set of complicated federal and provincial laws regarding fish and seafood farms. He's going to organize the reception was the government relations firm **Sutton Strategic**. Unfortunately, Conservative communications minister and **Sutton VP** **Dan Powers** had to stay away from the mouth-watering fish and seafood spread at Ottawa's **Chateau La Patisserie** as he's allergic to shellfish, but besides that, he hates fish because



ACTION MICHEL: COTE and Christine Gagnon (left at the screening of *Le Québec des 70 ans* on film, then clockwise) **Candace Huppert**, **Gail Shira**, **Fabrizio Ruggiero** (left) and **Dennis Cordery**, **Stockwell Day**, **Michael Ruby** (left) and **Levi Geller** (right)

his mother used to cook cod every morning to feed to the cats. An anecdote asked that his aversion to fish was the reason Powers left Newfoundland. One person who gave the food the thumbs up was **Gail Shira**, minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture. "The PM," MP told Capital Diary there is nothing she likes to do more than go out as a foodie/blogger. She can get the classics around the clock

for the movie *One Week*. Both films have motorcycles in them and coincidentally Moore happens to ride a motorcycle. *De jure* is for a about biker gangs, a father and police issue that goes under cover, and a revolution. Seated together in the theatre was **Denis Cordery**, who resigned as chief of the Liberal's Quebec branch, and **Pablo Rodriguez**, who was named president of the federal Liberal Quebec caucus after Montreal Liberal MP **Max Galarneau** stepped down in order to register Cordery. MP of all types wanted their picture taken with the filmmaker **Michel Côté**. "He is the Brad Pitt of Quebec," quipped Blue MP **Christine Gagnon**. The film had MP's rolling in the aisles. Blue MP **Serge Michard**, a former Quebec journalist and public security adviser who knows a thing or two about biker gangs, noted "there was enough fantasy unit to make us laugh. Nothing was realistic." Conservative MP **Shelly Glover**, a police officer on leave, agreed with Michard about the depiction of the bikers. She knows a lot about bikers, she says, "because that was my police officer's [husband's] specialty." Glover had just seen something about the screenings no popcorn.

AN MP'S MANITOBA CHILDHOOD

The passage of Conservative MP **Canada** **Shepherd's** private member's bill brings the demise of the long gun carrying muzzle loader. Has she herself ever owned a long gun? No, the Manitoba MP says, but her father used to have one and where she was 11 he let her shoot poppers with it. R

ON THE WEB: For more Ottawa stories or to contact Mitchel Raphael, visit mitchelradio.com



NHL commissioner **Gary Bettman** on Canada, the 'covenant' with fans, Gretzky and on trying to do the right things

A CONVERSATION WITH MACLEAN'S

In 18 years as NHL commissioner, **Gary Bettman** has shaped the league in numerous ways—U.S. expansion, new business, rule changes, the all-star game, the participation of NHL players in the Olympics. The past year, however, seems among the most troubled of his tenure. The league's bid to win the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver has been a disaster. Bettman has been at odds with many fans, highlighting the controversy of the commissioner's personality. Earlier this week, he announced the filing of Phoenix, Arizona, to join the league, and other hockey-related matters with the Madison's national board.

Q It's been a somewhat rough couple of years for you, at least publicly. Do you and your job?

A I love the job. I'm passionate about the game, and the people around the game, the way we as a sport connect with our fans. Every job has challenges, things that make the job interesting. It's not mostly easy, by the way, that's why you have change in national teams. That seems to be a little dramatic, perhaps a little extreme, as opposed to the reality. But every business has day-to-day challenges, and that's part of what gets those of us who work going every day.

Q We want to give you a chance to respond to the broad perception here in Canada that you're the future of the game here in the United States—and that the real reason the NHL was so successful this summer was to keep Canada from

getting more teams.
A I've got to ask you a question about your question: Where does that perception come from? What is it based on? Give me any fact-based basis and I'll answer the question.
Q Well, we could start by pointing you to some of the public opinion polls that emerged during the recent process.

A That's based on the coverage, not necessarily the reality.

Q So you're saying the negative perception of you is the media's fault?

A No, I'm not. I'm saying it's not based on anything. Look, what was going on in Phoenix was an attempt to, not just convince, but convince all of our rules and procedures as to the two most important decisions that any sports league has to make: one, who's going to own franchises and be part owner in the leagues, and where your franchises are going to be located. That was what Phoenix was about.

Q Based on feedback from our readers, it's safe to say most Canadians don't see it that way. A lot of them see a struggling franchise in Phoenix, a struggling owner in a growing hockey market and the league actually buying the team to stop that progressive Canadian owner from getting control of it.

A Okay, let's look at a little history. When Edmonton and Calgary were struggling and there were other places that perceived they could do better because the dollar was stronger, we fought to keep them. Ottawa and Buffalo and Pittsburgh were all struggling and other places felt that they could do better. But we

believe we have a covenant with our fans, who make us emotional and financial investment in us. If you run out on them in one place then you're delivering a message that maybe you don't take that covenant seriously anywhere. There was a point in the early 1970s when some said there was only going to be one team left in Canada. We never believed that, and everything we did with the Canadian Assistance Program, and with the new collective bargaining agreement, was to ensure that small-market teams—particularly small-market Canadian teams—not only could survive but could be fully competitive. And that's what you have.

Q You used the word "covenant" to describe the bargain between the league and its fans. What about the covenant that existed between the league and the fans in Winnipeg, and the fans in Quebec City?

A We had the same covenant there and we lost it in both of these cases. Both teams were struggling. Both needed new arenas and there was no prospect of the arena coming from any source. And the bottom line was differentials from the other cases we've talked about, including Phoenix, was that nobody wanted to own a team that anyone that's who you reach the end of the line.

Q But, respectfully, who wants to own the team in Phoenix?

A Let's back up. We had a prospective buyer and I was attempting to deliver the offer on May 7 when they put the bid into bankruptcy. What then happened was [Coyotes owner Jerry] Moyes, in conversation with others, did

SWINE FLU SCREW-UP

CAN CANADA'S VACCINATION PLAN BE FIXED BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE?

BY CATHY GULLI AND MICHAEL FRISCOLANTI

Canada is barely a few weeks into the biggest mass immunization campaign in the nation's history, and by now everyone has heard—or more dead-
 rika about the horror story. "It's been chaotic," admits Dr. David Schwartz, director of the Vaccine Evaluation Centre in Vancouver, which is associated with the U.C. Children's Hospital. His own experience is no exception. Recently, Schwartz's ordered nurses at his hospital to administer the pandemic H1N1 vaccine to all highest-priority health-care workers, those in the emergency room, intensive-care unit, and labour and delivery area. He knew there was a limited supply of doses, so he prioritized the targeted groups with a mobile cart. "We thought that was really smart. No advertising. This was a sensible way to vaccinate with the people who needed the vaccines."

But pandemician erupted. "Legions of people were basically crashing the party," he recalls, including non-priority clerical and medical staff. "There was such a 'demonstrator' and so many 'mole people' that they were being turned away" that the nurses had to return the next day with a security guard. "It is preposterous, the notion that nurses delivering a vaccine would be mobbed and fear for their safety," he says. "Who could ever have imagined a scenario like that?"

It's a question public health officials at every level should be asking themselves, given

the bewildering events that have unfolded since the pandemic flu shots started rolling out of the Quebec plant of GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) in mid-October. In Toronto, pregnant women and other vulnerable groups were forced to stand outside for up to seven hours, some in snow, in an unmeasured. In Calgary, a shorted flu clinic that had run out of vaccines descended into chaos of protesters among the lines—a rare occasion of "flu rage," as psychologists have nicknamed H1N1. In many cases, family physicians who tried to get their own vaccine refused for their most susceptible patients, including those with cancer, wheelchair-bound, and young men with strong immune systems, somehow managed to get their arms poked. As if all this weren't surreal enough, then came the political rhetoric by Liberal party president Alton Aggs, who wondered in a meeting for all to colleagues whether the flu pandemic in Canada's healthcare system.

Under Aggs's say-so, the H1N1 has been wildly mismanaged. "Boasted" in the buzz word these days. Most of the provinces and territories have received only a fraction of the vaccine they were initially promised. British Columbia, for instance, expected its first shipment to be a million doses, got a quarter of that amount, and so far the ensuing weekly shipments have also fallen short. On the other hand, many of the provinces and health units have been accused of sitting on



vaccines because they don't have the man-power to administer all the needles in one go.

Just looking like the shot has been more terrible than anyone anticipated. The virus has been difficult to grow in the lab (necessity was step in creating a vaccine), which experts say has slowed down GSK's production rate. Critics are also critical that Canada, unlike the United States and other countries, only brief one pharmaceutical company to produce the shots. And just when the vaccine-making got underway, GSK had contempt that production to create a 4.8-billion version for pregnant women. This short supply of the shot has forced governments to encourage "priority vaccination" so that the most at-risk populations get vaccinated first—though many healthy people have jumped the queue. "I think we assumed we were indeed a child society," says Schelleff. "That's not necessarily the case when people are scared."

The growing sense of panic matches the rising death toll. Across the country, 133 people have been killed by H1N1 since last spring, when it was first identified in Canada, including an alarming number of otherwise healthy, vibrant young people. Nearly three dozen deaths have occurred in the first 30 days of November alone, which corroborates Canada's chief public-health official's assertion that the "second wave" of the pandemic has ramped up. "We expect to hear of more illness and deaths in the coming weeks," says Dr. David Butler Jones. "This is something we have to be prepared for, as much as it saddens us."

But for most people, accepting that some lives in their community—maybe their own family—could die of H1N1 seems inconceivable, if not reprehensible. And all the deaths, disrupting vaccine supplies and talks of a potential third wave, now Canadian have reached the same conclusion: the country's public-health authorities—federal, provincial and local—have failed to measure up. What if this was the big one? What if we weren't so lucky, and H1N1 raged on to be the widest influenza strain that experts have been bracing for since the one capable of killing thousands of people in a matter of weeks? How many people would have perished while waiting in line for a shot?

Were we supposed to be ready for this? The federal government spent billions of dollars and many years crafting an official "Pandemic in Fluera Plan," and in 1999, the latest draft called every imaginable what-if-and-what-to-do. The document is so detailed that it even includes a write-up about where to store the infected corpses if the morgue ran out of space. (By the last body-pickup run, the report says, and if that's all, a refrigerated garbage truck will



THE PAINFUL IDOL Daily mourns the loss of their son (above). Thousands of Canadians waited hours in line before getting their shot.

arrive. [The protesters and organizers seemed equally prepared—on paper, at least. Each one brought its own pandemic road map, and like the national version, they leave little to chance. The Ontario plan goes so far as to point out that at some vaccination clinics, "Monsieur population might want hitchhiking posts for horses."

So earlier this year, when security was thin at the influenza virus infected in Mexico and spread across the globe, health authorities in Canada were armed with a very thick playbook. Unfortunately, that same playbook points out what so many who seeking Canadian now know: "No plan is or will be perfect, as far as I know only the hindsight that comes of experience can be identified."

Advocates who bring in the logistical word of language and the vaccine is already in, our transportation rollout was horribly bungled. Now, after all, can the same plan that complicates the parking needs of Motorcycles allow pregnant women to stand in the rain? But to suggest that the entire effort has been a colossal debacle is fair either. While it's clear that many mistakes—and assumptions—were made, pinpointing the culprits is not as easy as opposition politicians like to pretend. "Pandemic occurred three times a century," says Dr. Andrew Kemp, Ontario's medical officer of health. "There are going to be bumps in the road." Some of those bumps should have been spotted well in advance. Others were unavoidable.

Any debate about what's happened over the past few weeks must be framed by one specific fact: a pandemic influenza virus is not a seasonal flu virus. It is a never before seen virus that spreads rapidly from country to country, and no matter how swiftly the experts act, it takes time to create a vaccine. Unlike a typical flu shot, which can be pre-

pared months before the flu season actually arrives, a pandemic strain appears out of nowhere, just as H1N1 did in April. "Given if everything works perfectly, it takes about five months from the time you have a virus until the time you can produce a vaccine," says Dr. Tim Brewer, an infectious disease specialist at McGill University. "And those are some production problems with this virus. It didn't grow as well as the egg cultures that they had hoped. That was a real challenge."

Adding to that challenge was the fact that this year's seasonal vaccine was in the final stages of production when the H1N1 vaccine was ready to be made. Rather than cancel the

season or not at the time, it's turned out to be a very wise decision."

Another controversial decision was Ottawa's slow rollout contract with GSK. The rationale was sensible enough. In 2005, Jean Charest's Liberal government believed that the event of a global flu outbreak, it would be prudent to have a vaccine produced by a Canadian factory in Canadian soil. That way, if the borders were ever shut down, the shots would flow.

But last week, amid production interruptions at GSK's plant in Sainte-Foy, Que., federal officials confirmed that they will consider buying flu vaccines from multiple suppliers in order to meet potential shortfalls. The

numbers speak for themselves. In the first three weeks of the rollout, from Oct. 10 to Nov. 1, the feds distributed an average of 1.65 million doses per week to the provinces. Last week, the provinces received only 711,000 shots—barely one third the usual amount. Some fluctuations had no choice but to shut their doors.

Common sense suggests that more supplies would speed up supply, but Schelleff is not convinced. "It's the very fact that the vials here, not the logistics of vaccine purchasing," he says. "One would have to see the expanded target markets between the two companies, and the reality would have both of them struggling to meet their quotas." Even the U.S. is suffering through shortages. "It's been an across-the-board struggle."

A few weeks ago, the struggle actually had nothing to do with supply. Public health officials across the country were in a worried about running out of vaccine, they were worried that nobody would show up for the shot. Governments peppered the airwaves with TV and radio ads, urging Canadians to roll up their sleeves. "A few days before our clinics opened, I was being asked questions by the media about how we're going to persuade people to be vaccinated," says Dr. David McKenna, Toronto's medical officer of health. "Folks were telling us that many people did not want to be vaccinated, and we were planning for that." One survey conducted in late October found that only 49 per cent of Canadians planned to get the shot.

WHAT IF THIS HAD BEEN THE BIG ONE? HOW MANY THOUSANDS OF CANADIANS WOULD HAVE DIED AS PEOPLE LINED UP FOR A SHOT?



But despite the surveys, it is now clear that many health authorities in fact grossly underestimated the public's appetite for vaccine. Yes, the follow-up is whopping 20 million doses of the vaccine, but more local officials wrongly assumed there would be plenty of vials to go around as soon as their clinics opened—even though they knew full well that the vaccine would be shipped in spurts. Some provinces were downright irresponsible. The Public Health Agency of Canada asked that the early doses be reserved for high-risk populations—65-plus, the elderly, workers, pregnant women, children between six months and five years old, and people under 65 with chronic medical conditions—yet there was Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach, declaring

that "we've got everyone's consent to receive the shot." "We're the province that is offering the vaccine for every Alberta, not just to the high-risk groups," he boasted.

That same morning, newspapers across the country carried the troubling photo of a 31-year-old boy from Toronto named Evan Schelleff, infected with H1N1, the aspergillus fungus that collapsed and died on his bath room floor. "That range is just so powerful," says Dr. Natalie Crosswell, director of surveillance and epidemiology of the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion. "As a parent, as soon as you realize this is a real thing that's happened to a real child and that it could have been your son, your fears change completely."

Through it all, Evan's life's death did what thousands of public health machine could not: connect the masses to be vaccinated against H1N1. Locally, Evan's death, his death was an expected steady stream of traffic, was suddenly bordered by worried parents and other young citizens. Canadians who once had no intention of being pushed in the arms were now asking an obvious question: the government told us to get the shot, so why am I being scared away?

"I don't know if it was mixed messages, but there was not a clear message," says Dr. Elizabeth Robinson, an infectious diseases expert at the University of Manitoba. "The right message—that the rest of the people still stay home, and at-risk groups go first—came a bit late."

Even when the message is perfect, we're missing the entire context in the order of a pandemic is a momentary understanding, and when something goes wrong, the numbers are murky and the clock. The logistics have to be every overwhelming. Ottawa's job is to order the vaccine and distribute it evenly to the provinces and territories, which then have the supply to local health units. It arrives from the plant in 100-day boxes, which must be kept in the cold, and then shipped to hospitals and smaller health units and then shipped, unopened, made, across the country. Delivery by plane is forbidden, because the "cold chain" requirements—between two and eight degrees Celsius—is not possible at high altitudes.

At the heart of Canada's pandemic plan is a premise that most Canadians would rather not hear: everyone except receive the shot on the same day. Dr. Evans the same month if GSK meets its weekly target—near 10 million doses per week—it could still take up to four months to vaccinate the population. (Buckley Jones has repeatedly promised that everyone will have access to the shot by Christmas.) "I don't think the actual rollout of the vaccine—in terms of getting going into areas is

public health clinics—is giving all that badly,” says Schabas, now the chief medical officer of health for Hastings and Prince Edward County in eastern Ontario. “The problem in the vaccine is always going to roll off the assembly in a relatively small amount, day in and day out to work. We’re never going to start with enough money to do everyone at once, so there was always the possibility that there would be more people who wanted the vaccine initially than were going to be able to get it.”

Amid all the various finger-pointing, this is a crucial point. During a pandemic, getting it as much a part of the plan as logistics. “I think people’s expectations are very high for these things, and that is no different,” says Dr. Edith Clarke, Newfoundland’s chief medical officer of health. “People are used to getting health care when they want it. I personally think it’s very unrealistic that we had a one-year gap on the scene in April, and already we’ve got a vaccine and a fair proportion of the country.”

Five weeks into the process, Ottawa has delivered more than 8.4 million doses to the provinces, enough for one-quarter of the Canadian population. Whether that is a “fair proportion” is up for debate, but one thing isn’t: when it comes to actually sticking those needles in people’s arms, some regions are doing a much better job than others.

In Saskatoon, Sask., for example, the vaccine is administered by appointment only. Residents simply phone a hotline, book a time slot, and show up for the needle. “People line up on the phone—so you can tell that a line,” says Dr. Alan Nishtar, the region’s medical officer of health. “You’re not out in the cold. You might be told that because of your good health you may have to wait another two weeks, but you’re not told that after you’ve been in a line.”

Contrast that with Toronto, where live-hour lines were standard a yearling procedure in the first few days. “The initial demand was unexpected,” admits Toronto’s McKenna. But he captures the backlog that way when the vaccine first started to arrive in mid-October, the mayor’s place was a cash register in a select hospital and doctors’ offices, and they open to walk in clinics—capable of injecting up to 125,000 people a week—on Monday Nov. 2. After Thanksgiving holidays, however, McKenna decided to open five clinics early. “We were opening them on very short notice, and we had high demand,” he says. “That led to the initial long lines, but really only for the first two days. Once we looked into full gear with our other clinics, the lines were not there.”

Yet one of the clearest trends, and the lineup have vanished. In fact, the city’s mayor has been named one of the more effective

despised by early jokers. All told, only 30,000 people have actually shown up for the shot. Dr. David Fleming, an epidemiologist and professor of public health at the University of Toronto, describes the initial chaos that way: “It would be basically like going from traffic jam to traffic jam and saying ‘Oh, you know the world is changed up today,’ whereas in what places the roads may be flowing fine.”

Of course, it’s also entirely possible that many would-be visitors were simply scared away by those snaking lines they saw on the news. Hundreds of thousands of “hedgehog” people who don’t fit in the high-risk categories have also received the vaccine, but only after they’ve waited off for a while. When they finally get the green light, there

in those cases, is that some doctors will promise to give the shot to high-risk patients and then do what they please in the privacy of their own offices. “It’s going to be going to have that to matter what,” says Dr. Stephen McCreary, president of the Ontario College of Family Physicians. “That most doctors want to be involved in the vaccine program. Family doctors vaccinate patients. That’s what we do. Why they thought, all of a sudden, that we are a bunch of bumbling idiots and wouldn’t be able to do this at a beyond rate.”

Dr. Lisa Vermeulen, a doctor in Toronto, is still waiting for her order to be filled, so she “begged and borrowed” a few doses from a colleague and organized a mini clinic for her highest-risk patients. “I had one patient



MANY HEALTH AUTHORITIES GROSSLY UNDERESTIMATED THE APPETITE FOR IMMUNIZATION

who wanted chemo that morning,” she says. “We as a 33-year-old, I’m becoming, a very, very unwell. Now, imagine him in a lineup for six, seven, eight hours.”

So what does all this mean for the average Canadian who still hasn’t received a shot—and will not do so when that will happen? To tell all things pandemic, there is no easy answer. Influenza virus, which are characterized by mild symptoms in a given geographic area, and to last between two and six weeks. In the case of H1N1, the earliest signs of a serious wave showed up in September, and in many places it already seems to be on the rise. In other areas, however, such as Kingston, Ont., the pandemic has actually seemed to retreat.

That means doctors are more concerned about the importance of getting immunized, as they are in many places. In other areas, such as Kingston, Ont., the pandemic has actually seemed to retreat.

the worst of the second wave could be over before a good portion of Canadians are vaccinated. As daunting as that sounds, Fleming says that “anyone who is struggling forward with you would acknowledge that.” So the question then becomes: is it worth carrying on with the shot?

The answer depends on when you believe. Addressing a housing bureau expert over the likelihood of a third wave. In previous pandemics, a mass serious winter wave followed the summer one. If that happens again, the H1N1 vaccine would still offer protection during the next round of infection.

But Schabas takes a more of a third-wave is nonsense, a convenient theory to alleviate our surprise at how few people have actually died. He is convinced we won’t see another round of pandemic H1N1 risk because it’s a maddening trifling healthy people in his area, not to better getting vaccinated. Fleming, who studies infectious disease and modeling for MEDACs, a Canadian research network, says his models also do not point to a third wave. But he is careful with how he says it because he says they’re still the solid patterns of H1N1 in the coming months.

Even if there is no third wave, experts agree that getting the pandemic shot is still important because there is a good chance H1N1 will become part of future seasons, and, whether it may come next fall. Dr. Monica Mack, an epidemiologist and director at the B.C. Centre for Disease Control, also predicts that H1N1 will become part of the fabric of circulating winter for a while to come.

In fact, Mack says that there is “very important” that the World Health Organization



will announce that H1N1 be incorporated into the next season of vaccine.

Whether or not, everyone acknowledges that much. The H1N1 crisis has provided a new test for public health as theories, an opportunity to learn a few hard lessons about what Canada can do better next time. Many health experts are calling for a complete rethink of how we deliver shots, even suggesting the creation of a national vaccination program that would require all the provinces and local health systems to roll out the pandemic vaccine in the same way. Crews of adults who don’t have time to get to work to get that potential and local authorities have to find a way to deliver shots that are well-being, but that’s not a lot of differentiation for its role alone. “It doesn’t make a lot of sense to have different approaches. I know that goes against the Constitution of Canada, but it might have made sense to have a lot of the public who were providing to get one thing and the adjacent province is saying something else. There are lots of points where you wish there was just a one who said: ‘We’re doing it this way.’”

For now, the experts are just happy that H1N1 hasn’t been the catastrophe the health authorities have been bracing for—and had in mind when they wrote the frightening final outbreak pandemic plan. “I’m grateful that it’s not the 1918 pandemic, that the mortality rates aren’t higher,” says Mack. “If we had that kind of situation in this type of vaccine supply we’d be in a much harder place.”

Much better. What if it turns from tragedy had died in the arms of their helplessness? What if triple the number of first-round people showed up in the country, underfunded, under-supplied, and they left for their insurance at home turned away to violence? And what if—despite the best efforts of G8—some thing else we’re seeing at the production plant and vaccine isn’t ready to go through?

The answer, unfortunately, is that we would be pumping it up the flu shot in much the same way as we are right now. Of course, if there was a clearer pandemic, many other measures would be implemented immediately. Schools, social centers and places of employment would close down, quarantines would be ordered at the first sign of a wave, and the national medical authorities would be deployed en masse. And supplying would be disrupted by undesirable choices over who gets the shot first, saving vulnerable—the 65-year-old man with a bad heart, or the 21-year-old woman with a white life in love.

Maybe the lessons aren’t so bad. ■

With Nicholas Kahler and Julia Golden

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With Nicholas Kahler and Julia Golden

Iggy should toughen up: McKenna

BY JOHN GEDDES • Frank McKenna the son of a retired politician whose elder son remains status quietly keeps him clear of the political fray. But the former Prime Minister’s son and Canadian ambassador to the U.S. now plays a part of TD-RBC Financial Group, had some surprisingly blunt advice for Michael Ignatieff: “You’re overworked, McKenna’s back at the Conservative ‘team’” with McKenna’s style attack of his own.

McKenna didn’t pull any punches when asked what the federal Liberal leader should do about Roy Adams’ label him “just what you have to fight back,” he said. “My inclination is to use attack when you’re attacked.” As for the sort of advisers the Liberals are up against at Prime Minister Stephen Harper’s



THE LIBERALS are 'overworked with things,' says Frank McKenna

mentors, McKenna added, “They are doing well with things they do to fight back and fight back.”

Speaking about the Liberal TV ads that featured Ignatieff talking quietly in an open-closed black shirt, against a black backdrop, McKenna said, “The Liberal party is not doing well with things they do to fight back and fight back.”

Ultimately, though, McKenna says the next decision is Harper’s to make, not Ignatieff’s. “It’s not ‘Harper will do it or Ignatieff will do it,’” he said. “The leader of the Liberal party just has to be a respectable alternative and was for Harper to make a mistake.” ■

DEFENDING THE ROYALS

Why Canada needs the monarchy (even if it's these two)

BY ANDREW COOPER

In 1961, the historian W.L. Morton published a splendid one-volume history of Canada. The title had the power to thrill, and to shock: *The Kingdom of Canada*. At the back there is a list of all the kings and queens "sovereign over Canada." There are 18 of them, nine French and nine English, from Francis I, who ruled at the time of Jacques Cartier's first landing in 1534, all the way to Elizabeth II. Prince Charles will see duty as the 19th King of Canada, and Prince William the 20th.

So you see, we're not, in some imagine, a young country. We are an ancient kingdom, with a history of continuity uninterrupted, right stretching back nearly five centuries. For so generations it has endured, such long succession on the death of the last—the Constitution is the sole discontinuity—such an 80 generations of Canadians have built upon their parents' legacy.

You either think there is something glorious in that, or else you find it a little embarrassing. You either think this continuity is the cumulative work of generations, or you imagine it all began yesterday.

The latter view soon parades again, an alien presence, almost funny, as it is on the occasion of any royal visit. It is a kind of canon, a ritual show of deference to history in the way as any parading of the Daughters of the Empire. Sincerely have the Queen or Prince Charles on foot on Canadian soil before they are greeted with a 21-gun salute of newspaper columns complaining at the overmoderation of it all. Here we're in the 21st century, and still a monarchy?

Well, yes. And while we're at it, isn't democracy getting a little lag in the south as well? How long has it been, 2,500 years? And

that system of English common law, where isn't it time we replaced the first on that?

It's pointless to debate, in a way, since the monarchy isn't going anywhere. It isn't only that the position of the Queen is embedded in the Constitution, inescapably—the last thing to it, given the requirement of provincial assent. It is that the Crown, as an institution, is woven into every line of our constitutional order. It isn't just some little old lady in London or a middle-aged gent who takes to plume. It is as the political scientist David Held has observed, "the organizing principle of Canadian government," whose "persuasive influence" reaches into every area of government activity in all parts of the country. "The Crown principle is at the root of all executive power. It is the foundation stone of our system of laws (the 'Queen on the Bench'), our courts and legal system, the 'Queen in Parliament,' embodying the Crown, Crown and service. It is the common basis of federal and provincial sovereignty. It is the basis of our system of land tenure, of the Indian treaties, of an imperial civil service, with a whole body of procedure attached to it and underpinned by several centuries of political thinking. To do away with the Crown, to replace it with a republic, would require nothing less than a revolution."

The Queen is the personification of that system of laws and government, indeed of the state itself. The idea is rich in symbolism. In other systems, the state is an abstraction. In ours, it is represented by a human being: a monarch, that is, as much as certain systems of "laws not men." It is all the same one, armed with actual blood and blood pressure, whose welfare may not be sacrificed to any principle, however noble. The Queen's power being constitutional and circumscribed, not arbitrary and absolute, serves further as a reminder of the hard-fought history of parliamentary democracy, a struggle we're not, on the rivers, by violent revolution but by gradual reform.

At the same time, as the premiers embodied



ment of popular sovereignty, the Queen humbles the pretensions of democratic politicians, in possession of their temporary majorities. As it has been said, when the prime minister bows before the Queen, he bows before as that of more than symbolic value. In moments of crisis, as during the power struggle of the last year, when it is unclear who holds the democratic mandate, the Queen (as in this case her representative in Canada, the governor general) plays a vital role as constitutional arbiter, her powers and legitimacy serving as a check against abuse or usurpation.

COURTESY OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE



PRINCE CHARLES AND Camilla were greeted with a rapid response from Canadians, and a 21-gun salute of newspaper columns complaining at the overmoderation of it all.



response to Charles and Camilla's tour suggests, and as poll after poll confirms.

This is hardly accidental. It has been the deliberate policy of successive federal governments of both sexes, who have done

their best to belittle and diminish the monarchy—"like the section," in the journalist Peter Beinberg's immortal phrase, "secretly wanting on some level to hope that it will die." The Queen's recent honouring of

And yet, for all that, the Crown is in trouble in Canada. Inarguable as its position may be in law, inexcusable as its status may be in principle, it has all but ceased to command the loyalty and affection of the people—most of its primary functions, after all, and the basis of its legit as in the long run. The abolitionists at least pay it the compliment of thinking it matters, at least occasionally in the case of those historical melodramas in Quebec who see the Crown as the source of all their woes. For the rest of us, the monarchy appears little more than a justified waste at best, as the right



THE WORLD WATCHED AS THEY CHOSE FREEDOM

"They chose with their feet the principles: less upheld by Canada and our allies, embracing freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Border guards at first uncertain in the face of so many becoming unwilling, and were quickly swayed, to stop them. The life had gone out of the Commonwealth system."—Prime Minister Stephen Harper recalls the thousands of Germans who crossed the border to the West when the Berlin Wall fell on Nov. 9, 1989.

Jean Charest was more than a little loathe to this segment, given that the recent Charests ever offered in the way of a public show of allegiance was the Moral observation that, well, you know, it was the system we have. In most countries loyalty to the head of state—that is, to the reigning constitutional order—is the first duty of a citizen. Here it is a kind of rebellion, the absence of a radical fringe group almost invariably referred to as "reactionaries."

But it is not only that. If we anticipate, once we re-embrace that acknowledgment that there is something flawed in the situation itself. If the Queens, her heirs and successors have all but disappeared from Canadian public consciousness, it may be because they are hardly ever here. Once, when Canada's felt themselves an integral part of the British Empire, it might have been possible for the Queens to remain in their present position of absolute headship. Not to today. We can remind people of us like that she is legally Queen of Canada, not Queen of England then of Canada, but they won't feel it. And the notion that modernism like Charles's attempt to make the monarchy more relevant, but his original notion of everyday life in Britain, the most remote he will seem to Canadians.

The problem is not the monarchy, as such. It is its delegated status. There's an outdated cultural relic, not a constitutional function, but it is not the monarchy. It's the Governor General. If the monarchy is to be a lived reality in Canada and not merely a constitutional principle, it is to be a full-fledged traditional role as a focus of allegiance—symbol, as the poet Ted Hughes has said, of the "spiritual unity of the tribe." It can no longer do as off with former speech writers and mid-level CBC journalists, the staff of most governments and agencies. We need the real thing.

At one point, years ago, it was suggested that Prince Andrew should take it upon him self to cross the pond and start a new wing of the dynasty. It's probably getting a little late for that. But, well, what about Prince Harry? We know the rule that William's only job, once his grandfather and father have passed on, is which service he is always being trained. But Harry is looking forward to a life of freedom and independence. Doubtless that has its charms, but it's like a performance, more useful role, raising the monarchy in its last gasp of domination would be a good life's work.

Imagine not just a King of Canada, but a Canadian King, living here, raising a family here, his children speaking in Canadian accents, in both official languages. Perhaps Harry will take some convincing, giving up London for Ottawa. But the more about the remarkable circumstances into which he was born, he should be provided upon to take care of the team. ■

In defence of white male students



Derek Warwick's posters attacked his university's president

BY MICHAEL BÖRGER — In an interview last long ago about the future of post-secondary education, University of Alberta president James Sasaki made a bold statement: defining an unlikely category of students: white males. "I'm going to be an advocate for young white men, because I can be," said Sasaki, a metallurgical engineer originally from Leamington, Ontario, who is now the president of the University of Alberta. "I'm going to be an advocate for young white men, because I can be," said Sasaki, a metallurgical engineer originally from Leamington, Ontario, who is now the president of the University of Alberta.

That "problem" is well known. Recent Statistics Canada numbers show the proportion of male to female university grads has dropped significantly over the years: 59 per cent of grads aged 25 to 34 are now women. "The persistence of the gender imbalance are very concerning to me as not attracting young men to the sciences we should," said Sasaki, who worries about a loss of gender diversity in the future ranks of CEO and top jobs. That was cause for concern when even mainstream women, like actress—why not now?—We'll write up to 24 years and we will not have the benefit of enough male talent."

The remarks didn't sit well with some at the U of A. Derek Warwick, a second-year student, decided to respond—he and his friends plastered 100 posters reading Sasaki's remarks around campus. One, borrowing a motif from the 1958 film *Attack of the 50 Foot Women*, depicted a towering female student menacing the campus, with the slogan, "Women are attacking campus!"

Warwick was threatened with penalties ranging from probation to expulsion for distributing "mischievous material." "Either they didn't like the message or they hated the satire," he says. The U of A has since released, and Warwick got a good deal of local attention—in as well as a meeting with Sasaki. The U of A president is standing by his comments. But she also called Warwick's posters "divisive." ■

Behold! The lamb of Alberta.

BY KATIE ENGELHART — Alberta ranchers beware: there's a new threat out on the open range. But this one is soft and fuzzy.

The Alberta Lamb Producers have launched a campaign to make their sheep a mainstay on the province's dinner plates—and they're trying to convert consumers to sheepskin. The ALP campaign kicked off last month at the Alberta Sheep Symposium, where more than 100 ranchers gathered to hear lectures on topics like nutrition and lamb marketing.

According to ALP Chair Natasia Moore, it was the perfect moment to show off Sheep Demand for lamb meat is on the rise, she says, while it used to be "baby boomer and immigrants" who barked after lamb legs. Moore says the market is becoming more diverse. It's also a uniquely profitable product. "We felt that because other sectors of livestock are not doing so well, that there's a real opportunity here." Indeed, while beef and pork prices are falling, lamb has stayed "highly available" for three years. And there's room to grow. "We only fill about 50 per cent of domestic demand," says Moore.

Chad Dixon, owner of the Okotoks, Alta., restaurant Divine, agrees demand is growing. The lamb-eaters north the province promote lamb for the ALP and claim he can turn over the most popular entry to lamb's "rich and luxurious" taste. "I've converted a lot of people," he says. The chef's favourite is fatty traditional "a giant lamb shank," which is braised, seasoned, and cooked for up to five hours. But Dixon cautions that lamb is a finicky meat. "People think it's not as versatile [but that's] because they've brought up an chicken."

In addition to pushing existing products to increase their flock, the ALP hopes to win over diners from the struggling beef and pork industries. But it's not all about business. One of the desires of the new campaign is "pride." "Beef producers in Alberta are incredibly proud of their product, because it's really famous," Moore explains. "We want [our producers] to be proud of saying: I am a sheep producer. And I produce lamb!" ■

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CBC news network

DIVIDED THEY STAND

How some Democrats are putting Obama's health reform at risk

BY LIZETTE CH. RAYKAGE • Outside Capital Hill, conservative protesters held a banner that read "No socialist health care" and chanted "Kill the bill." But the real obstacle to President Barack Obama's effort to pass health care reform legislation this year have been divisions among his liberal Democrats. The bill that narrowly passed in the House of Representatives last week came at a high price for many liberal Democrats: among other things, it included broad restrictions on abortion funding in order to win over the votes of conservative Democrats, without whom the bill would not have passed. Now, as the Senate prepares to debate its own health care bill, which would eventually have to be reconciled with the House version, any final product is expected to be even more conservative—again, thanks to Democrats.

Included in the House bill was a so-called "public option"—a government-run, nonfor-profit insurance plan intended to compete with private insurers to provide Americans with a lower-cost option. The provision, which Republicans decry as "government takeover of health care," is already a far cry from the Clinton-style government-administered single-payer system many liberal Democrats wanted. But a revised health bill of moderate Democrats in the Senate is skeptical of the public option, and may torpedo such a pro union—opening a potentially fatal ideological divide within the Democratic party.

While joining the abortion funding restrictions and watering down or eliminating the public option may help Obama achieve his long-awaited health care reform, activists among the liberal Democrats have already warned that these moves, *voluntarily*, and those lawmakers in whose bill's mid-term elections will be harder to win by which legislation passes. And the Democrats, who enjoy a traditional edge among women voters, could feel the south of pin choice voters. Already, some prominent Democratic activists are moving on to their own. "The liberal group is now going to be a coalition of people from supporters to help find challenges to any Democratic senator who votes against the health care bill, and to support a Democratic senator who votes against the health care bill," said Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.). Another liberal group, Democracy for America, is con-

vinced any Democrats who oppose the public option to be stripped of their committee chairmanships. Another liberal group, the Progress America Campaign Change Committee, is targeting seats in Democratic who voted against the bill, declaring, "This payback time."

It might seem natural that Democrats would want to limit Obama's major legislative victory on the signature issue of the first term. But when Speaker Nancy Pelosi set a deadline of this Saturday to pass the reform bill through the House, she didn't know it

were carried by Republican presidential candidate John McCain. Now, with unemployment at double digits and an anti-inflation mood prevailing in the country, they are moving quickly. "This is a very, very serious crisis at hand," says Larry Sabato, a congressional analyst at the University of Virginia. "Intense conservative forces will have Democrats who voted for the bill. Some will lose an election or two. To the extent possible, [the House leadership] wanted to allow those Blue Dogs to vote no."

Another major stumbling block in the House bill was abortion. For 30 years, U.S. law has prohibited government funds from subsidizing abortion. The House bill did the same, but opponents of abortion said it did not go far enough because it allowed private insurance plans that cover abortion (far more than half did) to also accept government subsidies and insure low-income Americans. Although the subsidies were not supposed to cover abortion, critics said the approach was merely an accounting gimmick. After three

committee subsidies for costs of millions of uninsured Americans to pay health care plans. The legislation also contains a variety of measures aimed at reducing health care costs. The House version would pay for the subsidies by raising taxes on the highest income earners, while the Senate has contemplated imposing new taxes on the most expensive health care plans.

The version now moves to the Senate, where the possibilities for change are once more daunting. Sent to majority leader Harry Reid

and Mary Landrieu of Louisiana, who represent conservative states. It is likely, says Sen. Evan Bayh (D-Ind.) and Kent Conrad of North Dakota have expressed concerns about the cost of a bill.

The one possible Republican vote could come from Maine Sen. Olympia Snowe, who has proposed a "major" version of the public option. If private insurers would not provide a sufficient competitive, to conservatives, a public option could be "trumped." Many liberal Democrats consider this an unacceptable "watering down" of the public option. Adding to the uncertainty are two independent-minded Democratic senators. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut, who was Al Gore's vice-presidential running mate in 2000 before later leaving the Democratic party, said he will help a Republican filibuster against any bill that includes a public option. "If the public option plan is in there, as a matter of conscience, I will not allow this bill to come to a final vote," he has said. "Because I believe the debt can break America and send us into a recession that's worse than the one we're fighting our way out of today. I don't want to do that to our children and grandchildren."

Meanwhile, the Senate's other independent, Ben Rayburn of Vermont, who describes himself as a "democratic socialist," has not committed to supporting the legislation either. He has said he wants a high-cost system like Canada's, and has declined to say whether he will support the Democratic bill, especially if it includes a weak version or no version at all of the public option. "All I'll say for now is that I want the strongest public option possible in the bill," Sanders told *The Hill* newspaper after the House vote. "Beyond that, we're going to have to look at what develops." Similarly, Richard Durbin, the Democratic liberal senator appointed by disgraced governor Rod Blagojevich, has said he will vote against a bill that does not include a public option.

Meanwhile, the White House will keep pushing for any compromise that will cover the uninsured, not add to the deficit, and help bring Americans obtain or keep their coverage. Obama has said he will not let the abortion provision remain, but ultimately, he has to take whatever he can get through the Senate. "He has to have a bill. His first term will not be a success with a bill," says Sabato. "He will take a piece of the pie. He won't get the whole pie." ■



OBAMA has been facing opposition to his reforms from all sides of the political spectrum



should have the votes to succeed. Even after the 2010 House election, conservative, 30 Democrats still voted against the bill, which was passed through with votes of 220 to 221. Two Democrats voted against because "it was a liberal bill." For example, 24 of those who voted "no" were so-called conservative "Blue Dogs." Democrats, however, said that the overall reform package would prove too expensive. As well, 14 of the supporters were from conservative districts across the country—and demonstrated that Obama must be giving up to public frustration with union playmate, the growth of government and increasing deficits. With such hostile backdrop, many moderate and conservative Democrats have been reluctant to embrace an ambitious health care bill.

It didn't help matters that the vote took place in the wake of the Nov. 3 off-year elections that culminated in Republican governors in New Jersey, a Democratic stronghold; and in Virginia, where Obama had made errors for Democrats last year. That result was a warning sign heard by Democrats from conservative districts across the country—and demonstrated that Obama must be giving up to public frustration with union playmate, the growth of government and increasing deficits. With such hostile backdrop, many moderate and conservative Democrats have been reluctant to embrace an ambitious health care bill.

haggling, the final bill included language that would bar any insurance plan that receives federal subsidies from covering abortion services. Pro-choice groups were outraged. "It is unconscionable that any choice women will lose health reform to attack women's health and privacy, but their exactly what happened on the House floor tonight," said Nancy Keen, president of NARAL Pro-Choice America.

Of course, even in its most conservative incarnation, the health care legislation would make major reforms to U.S. health care. Major changes include rules prohibiting insurance companies from refusing to cover individuals with "pre-existing conditions," and gov-

ernment to introduce legislation for debate later in the coming week. It will emerge with passed earlier by the Senate on some issues. While Democrats hold 58 of the 100 seats, they need 60 votes to overcome Republican procedural maneuvering that could kill a bill. And at least five Democratic senators cannot be counted on to support a bill that includes a public option. There is Nebraska Sen. Ben Nelson, who said on Tuesday that he wants to see abortion restrictions in the final bill and also said he "can't support a comprehensive health plan that would increase the tax burden. Americans who have private health insurance." There are no congressional issues like the Lincoln of Alaska

ANDREW HANCOCK
AND JEFFREY M. HARRIS
FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

RACING TO REBUILD GM

Sales are coming back, as is the swagger. Is this rebound for real?

BY CHRIS BORTHEIM • The idea was for Bob Lutz, the former chairman of General Motors, to challenge dealerships of the beleaguered automaker to see him in an Audi's luxurious Sali Fleit. He would drive Cadillac's executive SUVs home from CES's luxury auto while challenges would have their choice of real production models. And, with any luck, Lutz would win and a brilliant marketing campaign would be launched.

But the ad agency's concept apparently wasn't bold enough for the former Maritz, who, incidentally, flies fighter jets in his spare time. He pushed for having the showdown on an actual racetrack, where the chance of damage to GM's battered brand would rise with each twist and turn. "I said, 'Hey, that's an interesting idea, but let's not use the subliminal, because going fast in a straight line isn't proving anything to anybody,'" Lutz said in an interview with *MotorWeek*. "The world has always known that Americans can build cars that go fast in a straight line."

Probably, it was Lutz before someone, namely the automotive blog *Jalopnik*—picked up the gauntlet that "Mission: Bell" had thrown down. The race took place last month at a track in eastern New York, and while Lutz may have ultimately lost to a 73-year-old BMW driver, he handily beat Japanese's Mitsubishi Lancer while first, second and third place went to other Cadillac drivers. (Seven of the 10 cars on the track were Cadillacs.)

More importantly, the two got people talking about GM's vehicles—not as financial woe, but as a change. "He doesn't pull punches," *GM WorldWide* analyst Mike Wall says of Lutz, who was brought out of retirement to be the automaker's product and marketing czar when GM needed a leadership jet course in July. "He wants to shake things up and make sure that you're talking out on people's shopping lists, which isn't easy."

With Lutz leading the way, GM appears to have regained its swagger on record time after sales are up, market share is growing, and at least one Cadillac plant is increasing production. GM also stands at the industry far west by getting the brakes on a planned deal to sit in Europe in Europe, Opel-Vauxhall, as French-Spanish automotive giant Magna and a Russian partner. Not had for a company



THE NEW, aggressive face of GM, Bob Lutz is challenging rivals to face him on the track.

that we left far dead at this three last year. And now, however, that the road back to profitability will be a long one. GM still depends on only on sales incentives to move vehicles off dealer lots, and consumers still harbor doubts about the reliability of its cars, trucks and SUVs. And then there's the not-so-letting question of paying back the more than \$150 billion in taxpayer bailout money that's currently helping GM afloat.

Progress is being made, but it's not yet clear whether the "new" GM is fundamentally different than the old one. Indeed, as GM's confidence grows, a biggest challenge may be avoiding the same mistakes, leading to a tendency to over-achieve, that brought it to the brink in the first place.

The future is looking brighter when it has as much from inside the gleaming showrooms of Genet GM, a dealership with two locations in Greater Vancouver. While it had to close its Port Coquitlam location earlier this year as part of a North

American-wide downsizing, president Bill Mitchell says Canada's remaining dealerships in Kentucky and North Vancouver are not achieving new volume from customers in recent months. "Our biggest challenge with General Motors today is getting enough product," says Mitchell. "Trucks, for some reason, are very hot right now. We sell every one that lands."

It's tempting to claim Mitchell's enthusiasm as a clear salesmen's wish, but he's not yet done whether the "new" GM is fundamentally different than the old one. Indeed, as GM's confidence grows, a biggest challenge may be avoiding the same mistakes, leading to a tendency to over-achieve, that brought it to the brink in the first place.

Observers credit the risk payment in GM vehicles to have surrounding new models—the bestselling Chevy Equinox "Crossover" SUV's one example—and GM's 60-day cash-back guarantee, which allows customers who

purchase a new car or truck to return it with no questions asked for a full refund. Mitchell, for one, says he has yet to have anyone return a vehicle to him no dealer shops. Meanwhile, GM says more than 176,000 vehicles have been sold in the United States since the offer was put in place, and only one car has been returned. Originally scheduled to end Nov. 30, the program has been extended until early January.

The guarantee is part of a larger marketing campaign dubbed "Play the Best Car Win," which essentially puts GM's vehicles head-to-head with the competition. The campaign is what prompted Lutz to slide on his crash helmet and, presumably, compete for a new car with the truck-building. "This has been, he didn't practice laps and then had a complete brain failure," Lutz boasts about

A big check for a company that lost \$150 billion over the last four years? Perhaps, but experts say dealer incentives are needed to change people's perceptions. "GM will better known for sport utility vehicles and pickup trucks, so consumers may not even realize that they have vehicles that get 30-plus miles per gallon," says Wall.

There is reason for GM to be optimistic: The message is getting through. With the U.S. cash-for-clunkers program now a memory, the automaker still managed to post a freer car sale jump in the number of cars and trucks sold during the month of October in the all-important U.S. market, its first such increase in nearly two years. (Sales fell in Canada, but executives attributed that to the fact that the Canadian market never really bounced out, a lack of inventory and the wind-up or sale

in the time. "And we appreciate the fact that we now have this trade as the job done." The "trade" Henderson was referring to was a balance sheet largely wiped of debt, new agreements with GM's unionized work force, fewer assembly plants and dealerships, and a leaner staff of four core brands—Chevrolet, GMC, Buick and Cadillac—instead of the previous eight.

Critics, however, say GM's move at risk of losing some of the state steps that it took in the first place. For example, some analysts have expressed concern about GM's plans to ramp up production as anticipation of an economic recovery next year. Just this week, GM revealed plans to sink 100 million into a plant in Ingersoll, Ont., jointly owned with Suzuki, to boost production of the Chevy Equinox and GMC Terrain SUVs. But GM has warned there are no plans to go back to its previous levels of hiring.

IT'S NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER THE 'NEW' GM IS FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT FROM THE OLD ONE



AND IGOR MITCHELL, GM's CEO, says he is likely returning to work.

his rise. "I mean, he cooked the books to the point that they were unusable. And just we wouldn't even show up."

It's all part of a bold, and risky, effort to change consumers' long-held perceptions that GM vehicles are gas-guzzling rattletraps with spotty track records when it comes to quality. A recent Chevy commercial set in the new town of football player Hines Long took favorable side-by-side fuel economy comparisons between Chevy vehicles and those made by Honda. The Chevy Cobalt goes up against Honda's Civic, the Traverse SUV against the Pilot, and the Malibu faces off against the Accord. The spot ends with a smiling Long saying that "Honda does make something we just can't compete with," as the camera pans to a Honda sign power-parked on the showroom floor.

When GM announced its bankruptcy protection in July, chief executive President Eric Fitch Henderson pledged that the new GM would only build vehicles that customers wanted to buy—ones with better cars and fuel-efficient "crossover" vehicles—and would dramatically speed up the length of time it took to bring things to market. "We recognize that we've been given a new second chance at GM," Henderson said.

ing capacity to the North American and Asian markets. Turning around Opel will likely require billions and the European market is currently suffering from oversaturation. The upside is that Opel provides the automaker with highly needed technologies that underpin smaller cars—a segment where GM has lagged behind its overseas competitors. Even Lutz admitted the decision wasn't an easy one. "Is this really the time to reduce the strategic weight of General Motors world-wide? Would it not be worth a little additional short-term financial gain in order to remain this global asset? You could easily come down on either side of that."

In the end, though, GM's crossover failure is largely going to depend on what you do.



WORKER MAKES A BLOODY GOOD EXCUSE

Adam Smith had a hell of a time of the Hindustan. So the Colorado education worker allegedly stabbed himself. They claimed he was attacked by a shark. The story unfolded when a surveillance camera lens in an attack. When asked why he did it, Smith, who was charged with filing a labor report, reportedly said he was worried about getting in trouble for rigging his work uniform while skateboarding.

referred to as the three P's of the automotive industry: "product, product, product." And while the company is making strides in this area, the harsh reality is that many consumers still don't see GM cars and trucks as being up to snuff in an ultra-competitive sector. Last month's recent announcement that Chevy's Volt is still a long way from being a reality is a testament to this. Last month's announcement that Chevy's Volt is still a long way from being a reality is a testament to this.

And, as if it's not all in the wind, Ford recently posted a US\$1 billion quarterly profit before taxes. Unlike GM, Ford recently posted a US\$1 billion quarterly profit before taxes. Unlike GM, Ford recently posted a US\$1 billion quarterly profit before taxes. Unlike GM, Ford recently posted a US\$1 billion quarterly profit before taxes.

Ford may indeed provide a blueprint for GM to follow, but its recent gains also highlight a key challenge facing any GM turn-around—namely that its competitors won't be standing still. In fact, they're not.

And, as if it's not all in the wind, Ford recently posted a US\$1 billion quarterly profit before taxes. Unlike GM, Ford recently posted a US\$1 billion quarterly profit before taxes. Unlike GM, Ford recently posted a US\$1 billion quarterly profit before taxes.

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Coming now to a TV near you

The future of local programming is on-demand, all the time

BY RALPH ENGELHART • Traditional television news needs a heavy makeover. Or maybe a visit from a knight in shining armor. Perhaps that's why Rogers Communications, one of the country's largest media companies, is betting on the idea of a new kind of local news. It's called *On Demand*. It's a key part of the company's "new media strategy" which encompasses a number of other initiatives.



ROGERS' NEW TV BUILDING IN TORONTO

Disney chairman Michael Eisner—the man credited with reviving the Magic Kingdom at a time when Disney was flailing financially. The investment bought Rogers a minority stake in the venture, which will produce around 30 Web series every year, each made up of "mini series" that are a few minutes in length. It may be Rogers' foray into what many see as the future of television.

Vigano is one part of an unfolding revolution in television to make it more responsive, a transformation that includes new models of local television. Rogers is betting success will come not so much from moving content online so much as giving television more Internet-like features, so that viewers can watch everything from Vigano shows (which Rogers has exclusive rights to broadcast in Canada) to local news wherever they want with the help of personalized TV systems. "I prefer to watch TV on the TV," says Calvert

Witson, vice president of Rogers TV. She's not alone. A poll last year showed that Canadians spend only 57 per cent of their TV watching time watching on a traditional television (as opposed to TV on their computer).

If TV is to remain king, it will be with this local on-demand programming, which allows viewers to buy immediate access through their television to shows of their choice, adds Witson. Rogers is eager to extend the on-demand model beyond news stories. Shows like *House* or *Mad Men* to local shows. It's a key part of the company's "new media strategy" which encompasses a number of other initiatives. Rogers TV's sixth anniversary. It hopes to add everything from regional children to high school sports to its Rogers On Demand list. This could go as far as including local news shows or talent competitions. The service, it says, could even be "personalized," allowing, say, a New Brunswick reader living in Toronto to watch her old hockey team play back home.

Whether or not that consumer development vision seems possible remains to be seen. Already, the CRTC strictly limits how companies like Rogers can profit from community TV—limiting them to selling memberships (along the lines of "This program is brought to you by...") or opted-to-broadcast live advertisements. And the CRTC strictly limits how companies like Rogers can profit from community TV—limiting them to selling memberships (along the lines of "This program is brought to you by...") or opted-to-broadcast live advertisements.

In the meantime, Rogers is looking to its On Demand service, as part of something that could help community TV stay vibrant. "We don't run the service for ratings, we run the service for relevance," says Phil Lind, vice chairman of Rogers Communications. But over the last three years, online video consumption has more than doubled, according to a consulting research company. TV is moving in the same direction, with content increasingly originating on the Internet—which environment is local programming. Still, Rogers will respond to that change by bringing a Web necessarily that viewers want content of what they watch and when—to local television. On Demand, it argues, is the one thing that can accomplish that feat. For a local TV company, it could be a lifeline ending. ■

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SCORE DJ's reliance on a digital DJ system, instead of a turntable, is partly to blame for MADD.

SIR MIX-A-LOT

A growing number of young people suffer from musical ADD

BY KATE MARSH • When Toronto DJ of the Fox performs for a young crowd, he'll generally only play a song for a minute or so before moving on to the next one. "I usually play just the first chorus," says Fox, 24. "It sounds weird, but it's a nightclub standard nowadays." When he plays his first song on a gig (where the audience was 30-plus), Fox was surprised. "Everyone kept saying, 'You're missing the song too fast,'" he says. "I had to slow myself down and play the whole song."

This night, Fox became aware of what he calls a "generation gap" in how younger people (say, those aged 25 and below) listen to music, compared to older crowds. He notes a when he's driving with his parents, his Fox will skip through tracks on his iPod, while his parents "Soooo, just let the song play!" Working with University of Toronto psychologist Robert J. Bryer, Fox has written a paper that raised a alarm for his generation's inability to listen to a piece of music that lasts more than 90 seconds (musical attention deficit disorder, or MADD). It's a condition he's been studying—as a DJ, firsthand—and one he believes is on the rise.

With modern digital distraction at our fingertips, says Fox, our attention spans have grown shorter. People of every age are addicted, no doubt, but he and his colleagues believe the younger generation is especially susceptible. Today's teens and tweens are into things, Fox notes, that

"involve technology." The two-fold MADD is a condition associated with frequent song skipping and a greater ability to multi-task than their parents' generation.

It's a change that's reflected in, and exacerbated by, today's dance music. Indeed, Fox, who believes he's "one of the few people in the world studying nightclubbing," thinks he and his fellow DJs are partly to blame for all this musical ADD. Instead of vinyl records on a turntable, many of today's best-Fox included—uselessly fast and slow, a digital DJ system that lets them mix songs faster.

Back in the days era, when records were king, 16 bar intro was common, Fox says, so DJs had more time to transition into the next song (Arista's *Ward's Raging Myself* has a 32 bar intro). Fox, who used to work with records before switching to Seneca in 2004, remembers how cumbersome it could be. "I'd have to find the record, get it out of the sleeve, put it on the turntable, mix it in, and hope the dance floor stays tight."

With Scratch Live, DJs can now play digital music in a computer, using time code vinyl to scratch, beat match and do other tricks. "If you drop the needle one minute in on the vinyl, you're one minute into the MP3," Fox

explains. As a result, DJs are mixing into the next song faster, he says, a change that's being reflected in songwriting and producing, too. Compared to Ward's disco anthems, Arista's *Right Now*, a popular club track, has just an eight bar intro.

In the days before Seneca, record releases would spend more time on DJ's—the best vinyl store space, and the assurance "We'll give you each other to get onto the record store first, to pick up the latest and greatest cuts," says former music producer Sam J. Abbey (stage name: Divine by Zena). Montreal DJ and promoter Paolo Cardone remembers paying close to \$10 for a record, then realizing it also just one because "by the next Saturday, all the DJs would have the same one." And casting records around was back-breaking: each record costs, Fox says, "weighed, like, 75 lb., and then you only have 100 records with you for the night."

How times have changed. "Now, we go into a website like iTunes and purchase songs, and then import them onto the computer and play them the same night," Abbey says. Instead of 100 records in a crate, Fox now has a gig of 20,000 tracks on his computer (Dimitri's digital mix, DJs are finding creative ways to use up each other, trading blogs for bookings or a mutual romance.)

Scratch's been a godsend, to be sure, but there's been some backlash, too. Since new technology made it more accessible, "it seems like everybody and their mother's a DJ," Cardone says. Careless are guilty of transitioning from one song to the next too quickly, he believes, shortening the experience, and even on the DJ's record of playing to the crowd. "By the time a group of girls has the dance floor, the DJ's already moving on," he says. "It's a problem from one to come," and it's gotten worse. "Before the dance phenomenon took over."

No wonder the new music industry is still struggling to see an older crowd, who grew up listening to entire songs instead of a musical highlight reel.

Fox doesn't think musical attention deficit disorder is a bad thing, necessarily—just a small world understanding. But if more are constantly multi-tasking (listening to music, say, or on Facebook) while doing homework, doesn't the quality of the work suffer? He doesn't think so: "I would totally multi-task while I was writing this paper." ■

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Championship or catching your dais, you will appreciate the warmth of the Lake Simcoe Arms Pub in Jackson's Point.

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- Dec 5 Handel's Messiah: A Community Celebration – Markham Theatre
- Dec 5 The Essentials – 19 on the Park, Whitchurch-Stouffville
- Dec 5 A Main Street Christmas – Scramberg
- Dec 10 A Very Lennon Christmas – Markham Theatre
- Dec 11 Black Umbrellas – Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts
- Dec 12 A Candlelight Christmas – Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum
- Dec 18 Christmas with the Canadian Tenors – Markham Theatre
- Dec 19 Forest Jingle Bell Walk – York Regional Forest, Halldge Tract
- Dec 18-20 Matus O – Christmas Carol – 19 on the Park, Whitchurch-Stouffville



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CANADA

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Warning: parents might freak out

These first-person accounts of teen sex can be disquieting

BY ANNE KINGSTON • As she was gathering first-person accounts for *Love: Young People's Experiences with Sex in an Easy Access Culture*, a new second handbook, Shannon Goodrum observed a trend: there was no shortage of advice, cautionary tales—regrettable hookups, sexually transmitted diseases, over-

Part of the problem, she knew, stemmed from ingrained perceptions about adolescence among the 18- to 25-year-old contributors to the half-century-old journal. "Sex isn't about saving people," Boothman says. "It's supposed to be sexy."

But not also know the possibility of aches and pains inflicted so deeply, little discussed truth that pleasure isn't even on the sexual radar for many to dream's own experience caught dissonance exists between the real Gosses Girl hyper sexual age culturally and the all we writes that she's pain and near "when the first had state Alike, however, the beauty it had been erotic and mind she herself a "sexual faked ripresent, making a poor the V watched same age of class, the didn't have a vision was located based on the who suburban upon came it had to be inside her vision

Frustated, Hadram decided to educate himself and figure out why she had settled into a series of unfulfilling hookups, what she now calls "the monotonous burnout of sex." Part of it was a lack of confidence: "By limiting myself to hookups, no one could break a sweat because the men never seemed to want to be

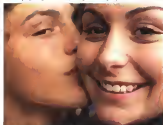
my boyfriend, anyway." What was needed, she thought, were unswerving horses from the heavy, confusing, exciting, frightening and vulnerable landscape of teen sex. Band cars entered and honed 40 narrators that negatively filter raw sex-poets, then inserted their smoochapters capped with answers to questions many teens might not ask, for fear of seeming naive. (The lack of knowledge about sexual consequences in *Lulu* is mind-boggling: one male writer of whiffy onanism uses HPV warts.) Though some might quibble

you're not in a date, you're could be every-
thing or a could be nothing." Teenagers have
to put themselves first, the tips. "The more
empowered you are, the more confident you
are, the more people are going to like you.
But girls are taught the more sedate you are,
the more likable you are." She's particu-
larly concerned about porn's pernicious effect.
"Young adults need to be taught about porno-
graphic content the same way they are warned
about the WWW [World Wrestling Entertainment
network]—it's not real," she writes.

Boofkins ignored the advice of an agent who told her to drop the chapter on rape, which includes a girl's harrowing account of being violated by a lineup of boys at a party. "It's the most important chapter," she says. "Date rape" happened all the time without girls understanding it's rape. "She also perceived when Canadian publishers rejected the manuscript) the standard opinion was that it would be difficult to market) Berlebach, Calif.-based Seal Press picked it up for North American distribution.

Now the energetic pro-reform who hosts the cable show *High School Radio* is marketing *and* by herself, mostly, she sits at a table at Toronto's Women's College Hospital to sell the book, she's also working to get the on high school curricula. Toronto sex columnist and author Jenny Vogels is a supporter. "As opposed to the often self-righteous and fear-based messages you see people get from adults who seem to think all young women are heading out there like whores," Lind says, "the other ladies here people have about what other ladies are doing and effective a 'Wow, maybe I'm not such a freak' educational type," she says.

Already, girls have told teachers that they were inspired by the difficulty-to-gather data to about loving, gratifying sexual relationships. "They say, 'I've never experienced something like this, it gave me hope that maybe I can,'" That may cause some parents to freak out. If so, they really need to read *Leaf*; it will be an education. ■



LAO ANSWERS questions, Irews might not ask for fear of upsetting natives

with the nondiscriminatory, the diverse voices provide range and preclude knee-jerk generalizing: "I met the rising girl who appears to be living in a rap lyric, willing to accept art as something done to them, not for them; there's abandom by choice. Denise Dorrie who writes: 'It's not my responsibility to make sure a girl's never has a great day'."

Goodman's approachy message is simple: sexuality isn't one-size-fits-all mass-market commodity; it's personal, unique, and to be valued. "When I realized 'What do you want people to get out of the book?' I always say 'Get yours,'" she says. "There can be a huge

MASSACHUSETTS: CAT GUIDES

Crazy cat ladies be gone! In Dudley, Mass., a town southwest of Boston, it's now illegal for the law to own more than three cats without a special license. The new restrictions were put in place last week at a town meeting. The issue came up when one man reported that the 15 cats owned by his neighbour had ruined his yard. That woman has since announced plans to sell her house and move to a "more cat-friendly community."





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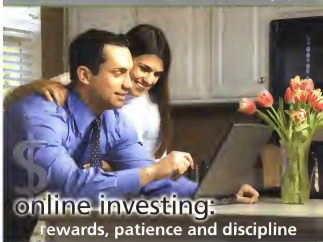


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Information Supplement



AN INCREASING NUMBER OF PRACTICES ARE TRYING THEIR hand at online investing. While many are attracted by the thought of being in charge of their own investment destiny, it is not a practice that should be taken lightly. Like any financial planning effort, online investing takes patience, diligence and planning, in order to strike the right balance between risk and return.

>>> Taming behaviours

One of the major challenges with self-directed investing is the fact that emotions can get in the way of sound decision-making – and there is nobody looking over your shoulder to provide a sober second thought. The key to solid online investing practices is to achieve some level of emotional detachment, and to apply rigorous analytical and quantitative thinking to the decision-making process.

Rather than letting emotions override logic, online investing should be rooted in a well-structured plan, rather than a vague desire to make as much money in as short a time frame as possible. This means addressing factors like your

investment goals in the short and long term – as well as your capacity for risk – and putting it all in writing.

A key part of that process is establishing clear benchmarks and gaining a solid understanding of one's savings needs – whether the goal is to accumulate funds for a major purchase (e.g., a home), education costs, retirement, or any other life-changing event. Understanding both short and long-term financial needs will provide a solid framework from which to make informed investment decisions.

Going through the process of developing goals – and a matching investment style, is critical in combating the emotional challenges that face most investors. Overconfidence can lead you in hot water. Under confidence can be equally damaging. Some investors will take losses personally, so they end up hanging onto an investment longer than they should. Others react too quickly to a decline and sell their equities in a panic, and then

compound the problem by picking up higher risk investments in an attempt to recoup their losses. When an investor constantly changes strategies in an attempt to beat the market, they will inevitably fail.





THE WINTER GAMES WILL see the season's hottest ticket stockpile, from top NFL, NBA's famous players, one of Japan's legendary sumo wrestlers, including the Cultural Olympiad.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Olympics aren't the only games in town

THE GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS PAST WALKING TOUR/VICTORIA (December) A 90-minute tour of Victoria's supernatural past includes the story of Adelaide Giffin (she died in 1851), and her struggle in the city's first documented ghost sighting, first spotted at Christmas (and the ghost of Hebe's Alley, at the site of the old town jail). The prison was torn down in 1855 but, some claim, making chains and footprints can sometimes be heard in the alley, while others swear they've seen a man dressed in prison garb. Brave participants learn about the legend of Christmas Hill and a murder that took place on the steps of St. Andrew's following Christmas Eve mass in 1890.

GLAYDON OYSTER FESTIVAL/TORONTO (Nov. 18 to 20) Toronto's stunning coastline warrants a visit any time of year, but for one weekend every November the city, where 10,000 gallons of oysters are harvested annually, celebrates all things from the sea. Visitors can partake of raw oyster bars, educational oyster farm tours, and a Mermaid's Ball (prizes are awarded for the best costume and best oyster chaper). During the Oyster Gala wrap-up party local chefs compete to create the best oyster dishes.

TWILIGHT ZIP TREKKING/WHISTLER (December to March) Once the sun sets, adventure seekers, whether a handlamp to guide their way, are harnessed to a steel cable before stepping blithely off snowy bridges and boardwalks in Whistler's snow-capped mountains, about 65 m above the ground. As if there wasn't enough outdoor adventure in Whistler.

VANCOUVER BIENNALE (June to Sept. 2011) This free international art fair features exhibits throughout the city. Take advantage of the mild West Coast weather this winter and admire 90 sculptures from more than 25 nations, light installations from 100 artists, and various performance art and audio installations. Among the most anticipated works include LED neon displays by Israeli Kallan of India, the emotional "laughing man" pieces from Yan Mingxin of China, and the overwhelmingly positive contemporary works of Juana Maria of Spain.

THE 2010 WINTER OLYMPICS/VANCOUVER-WHISTLER (Feb. 12 to 28) For those willing to shlep it out for, well, just about everything, the Olympics in Vancouver promise to be the biggest party Canada has seen (and Calgary hosted the Winter Olympics in 1988). Sure, scoring tickets to the big events this late in the game is nearly impossible, but every bar and restaurant in town will be serving with Olympic spirit. For those who find themselves without a pair of tickets to the gold medal hockey final—or are just in need of a break from all the action—consider taking in Vancouver's 2010 Cultural Olympiad, showcasing the best in international and Canadian art and culture. Between Jan. 21 and March 21, the Olympiad will feature a number of musical performances, including a Billie Holiday tribute headlined by Broken Social Scene. Other events range from a musical carnival to the explosive Japanese martial arts dramas of Jiro.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.hellobc.com

ALBERTA

Get your skis shined up

CANADA OLYMPIC PARK/CALGARY Another way of celebrating the Winter Games this year is to check out Canada Olympic Park, where many of the big events were held in '98. In addition to still being a training facility—and the site of the Canadian Olympic Hall of Fame and Museum—the park is also open to the public. Nearly 300,000 skiers and snowboarders come every year to try out the slopes. Many guests also give the lake a shot, and take a turn on a toboggan—a 90-second thrill ride, piloted by a pro, that features 14 hair-raising turns and a top speed of 130 km/hr.

WINTERFEST FESTIVAL/BANFF AND LAKE LOUISE (Nov. 20 to Dec. 4) Start off the season by watching the best alpine races in the world to start down the mountains in Lake Louise (Men's World Cup racing on Nov. 25 and 29, Women's World Cup racing on Dec. 3/4) and Lake Louise will play host to the Winterfest Festival.



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Niagara Falls

to the "angelic beauty" of Canada's Arctic, was created by composer-residence Vincent Ho. The 30-minute work is based on a well-known idiom that Ho took in 1986 to the Canadian North with a group of scientists, including time aboard the Canadian Coast Guard ship *Auroramen*.

Hudson Bay Quest & Northern Lights/Churchill The Hudson Bay Quest, a traditional dog sled race, was founded in 2004 by a small group of mushers hoping to revive the sport. The ensuing 400-km race (which begins next year on March 17) links Churchill, Man., and Arviik, Nunavut, and brings together expert teams from across North America as well as local hand of spectators, who brave the chilling -35-degree temperatures. Churchill is also one of the best places in Canada to view the northern lights. Astronomers and physicists have been drawn to the "polar bear capital of the world" for more than 140 years in the hope of getting a better understanding of this atmospheric phenomenon. Hop on the back deck of a husky "bushy buggy" to take in the lights of the aurora borealis as they fade and swirl in the Arctic sky. For those looking for something with a more scientific bent, check out the Churchill Northern Studies Centre, where veteran "Starman" Roger Wicksley teaches courses on the aurora borealis.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.travelmatters.ca



THE HARVEST in Niagara-on-the-Lake (below), is characterised at Toronto's Kensington Market, Ottawa's Rideau Canal Skateway is equal to 93 Olympic-sized hockey rinks.

ONTARIO

Have a drink, stay awhile

WINTERLOVE/OTTAWA (Feb. 5 to 20) Once this family-friendly festival is in full swing, it seems like the entire city is out enjoying a heavier (alcoholic) than the Ottawa (Ontario) and a hot (and/or cold) while gliding down the Rideau Canal. Coconuts, a light show and an ice-sculpture competition line the 7.6-km stretch of canal. And some of Ottawa's top restaurants celebrate by offering special prix fixe menus.

ALIGHT AT NIGHT FESTIVAL/HOBBSBURG (Nov. 28 to Jan. 3) More than 212,000 white lights are strung up in historic Upper Canada Village (modelled after a small village in the 1860s), attracting 40,000 visitors to the town located 95 km south of Ottawa. Take a stroll under the stars, look in reverse-view drive-in wagon, or, if you're not a life-sized guy, join for the full experience. This year's event will also feature a live steel guitar band.

KENNINGTON CARNEVAL/TORONTO (Dec. 20) During the city's longest living Carolside of Lights, now in its 43rd year, celebrates the longest night of the year by dressing in silly, making, bringing along a homemade instrument and lighting candles at the annual winter solstice celebration in one of Toronto's funkier neighbourhoods. When in and out of Kennington's narrow streets, where you can watch live blues, rock, jazz and more puppet dancing in a procession during this celestial carnival. Revelers light up the night in a glowing parade before heading to a local park to party around a bonfire.



BON SOO WINTER CARNIVAL/SAULT STE. MARIE (Feb. 8 to 14) No winter carnival would be complete without an out-bus race or a goofy-looking mascot, and the Bon Soo Winter Carnival delivers both. Northern Ontario's largest winter carnival, which attracts more than 100,000 to the Soo every year, has been celebrating Franco-Quebec culture since 1964. The carnival features more than 900 fun events, including celebrity look-alike contests, art exhibits, dance and curling tournaments, sleigh and snowmobile races, a polar bear event, and competitions in which dogs compete to pull the most weight. And be sure to get a picture with the Bon Soo mascot, a slightly less inflated version of his cousin from Quebec City.

NIAGARA ICEWINE FESTIVAL/JORDAN (Jan. 15 to 30) It might sound odd to wish for the better cold, but the Niagara Icewine Festival depends on it. During the 10-day event, the main streets of Jordan and Niagara-on-the-Lake are lined with ice bars and ice skating rinks, live music, live bands and ice skating. And visit the boutiques that dot the streets of both idyllic towns. Of course, before heading home, remember to pick up a bottle of your favourite icewine.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
www.ontariowinter.ca

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THE FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR features 500 musical acts. (above), the "Festival" Festival features a championship dog race.



THE FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR features 500 musical acts. (above), the "Festival" Festival features a championship dog race.



NEW BRUNSWICK

The way it was meant to be played

WORLD FOND HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP/PLASTER ROCK (Feb. 11 to 14) Since the small village first hosted the event in 2001, the championship has grown from 40 teams to 120, representing 21 countries. (The defending champs are the Sleds' Whist Kings from Fredericton.) Teams play four on four, without goals—the goal is just 27 cm high. This year, a women's division is being added for the first time to the season's history. But the grand prize is unchanged: a trophy that looks a lot like the Stanley Cup, except for the fact it's made out of wood.

WINTERFEST NEW BRUNSWICK/FREDERICTON (Feb. 5 to 20) Inspired by one family's visit to Whistler in the nation's capital, Winterfest NB was founded in 2002 and boasts seven cross-country trails and a 16-hectare ice labyrinth with two metre tall walls. Every year, thousands of tourists enjoy the artistry of the ice and snow sculptures and test their off-season golf skills by scoring one up at one of the three polar bear golf holes.

RUSTIC WINTER SHELTER/KOUCHIBOUIGUAC NATIONAL PARK (Dec. 15 to March 20) After trekking—by cross-country ski or on foot—the 10 km to the campsite, you'll appreciate the simple—indoor—accommodations for solo, accommodate three people must stay at the outdoor shelter at a time. This outdoor adventure is not for high-maintenance types. Participants will have to carry everything they need during their stay. The park, which is located about 100 km north of Moncton, provides snow, firwood, picnic tables, six sleeping platforms and a toilet—and, of course, plenty of trails for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and tobogganing.



COMPETING FOR bragging rights in Plaster Rock (1997), enjoying the warmth of the sun while basking in one of NB's scenic trails.



NEW BRUNSWICK'S NORTHERN SNOWMOBILE ODYSSEY (December to March) Every year, up to 400 km of the white trail runs in New Brunswick, the most snow in any of the three Maritime provinces. That's why so many jump on a "sled" and head out on the epic winter journey, which covers 1,000 km of trails and links Munich, Barham, Campbellton and Edmundston. Be sure to fit in some time to unwind at one of the bed and breakfasts or hotels along the way.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: www tourismnewbrunswick.ca

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PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Get 'em while they're cold

ICE COLODYSTERS/PERMWOOD (Monday to Friday, by appointment) Head out onto the ice at Sabatier Cove on a snowmobile and learn to catch oysters from the bottom of the ice. While most fishermen use chainsaws to cut through the ice, visitors taking part in a guided tour are able to plunge their own hands into the ice and even feel eyes right out of the water. Participants learn the difference between stretched and choocoysters, as well as how they're farmed, harvested, and shucked.

BROOKVILLE WINTER ACTIVITY PARK/QUEEN'S COUNTY Centrally located, Queen's County is where many cross-country, snowboarding and alpine enthusiasts come to play when visiting the island. For downhill skiers, the park offers a 36-in drop and 10 alpine trails. Nordic skiers can enjoy 34.5 km of recreational trails and another 36 km of competitive lanes. If skiing isn't your thing, pull on a pair of snowboots or jump on a toboggan and race down the hills—all before enjoying a warm cider in one of the two lodges on the property.

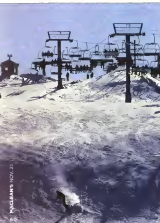
QUINER FOR AN EVENING/CHARLOTTETOWN (until the end of December) Harness racing has a rich history in PEI. (Name of

the Gold Cup and Sauter Race) and then watching like the thrill of watching "you" here make its move in the final stretch. The Quener for an Evening experience includes a tour of the grandstand at the Charlottetown Driving Park and Entertainment Centre and a visit to the paddock to meet the horses. Participants discuss race strategy with trainers before a buffet dinner of roasted meats, seafood chowder and PEI produce. Though you won't collect a cent if your horse is victorious, expect to be treated to the winner's circle where your photo will be taken alongside your horse and driver.

BEING AN
"Quener for an
Evening" has its
privileges:

JACK FROST CHILDREN'S WINTERFEST/CHARLOTTETOWN (Feb. 10 to 14) About 70 tonnes of snow is used to make Jack Frost's "house," a whimsical castle that delights children during the largest winter festival east of Quebec City. Frost's snow kingdom is an interactive playground brimming with slides, jungle gym, an igloo village and ice carvings. And though the festival is primarily geared toward children, adults can enjoy the live music, fireworks displays, and a 1,600 sq foot snow slide.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.tourismpei.com



PERMWOOD (left) offers a variety of downhill and cross-country skiing. Jack Frost's house (above), which is made out of 70 tonnes of snow delivered through and into the winter forest (below).



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JOEL PLASKETT (top) performed at the fest in the Dead of Winter Festival, catch a glimpse of a bald eagle in Sheffield Hills.



Annapolis Valley community's favorite winter retreat between late November and early March. The best viewing opportunities are said to be mid-morning. On the weekends of Jan. 23 and 30, a natu-ralsist is on hand to answer questions, and there's a relaxed eat exhibit at the community centre. Guests can also partake in a picnic and sausage breakfast.

NOVA SCOTIA WINTER ICEWINE FESTIVAL/ANAPOLIS VALLEY (Feb. 4 to 14) Icewine isn't the best thing to come to mind when planning an East Coast getaway, but the Nova Scotia Icewine Festival is proof that there are plenty of award-winning winters in the region. The 10-day event, hosted by the Winery Association of Nova Scotia, will be the third annual celebration and features vineyard tours, wine tastings, gourmet dinners and cooking classes.

KIJIKUAK NATIONAL PARK AND NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE/ANAPOLIS COUNTY Covering 600 sq. km of inland lakes and farmland, Kijikua National Park and National Historic Site is a magnificent beautiful all-terrain woodland with over 100 km of groomed trails for backcountry skiing and a perfect site for winter camping. The park is home to centuries of Mi'kmaq history, and boasts one of the largest collections of rock carvings in North America. Kijikua is said to mean "moose meadows," which is exactly what to expect after tramping over snow-covered and traversing the natural trails that snake through the park. But the natural beauty of the place makes it all worthwhile.

SKUJING/BADDERICK (November to March) In what has to be one of the stranger sports, skjating involves securing a pair of cross-country skis and becoming attached, by a single cord, to the harness of an Eskimo dog (another variation of the sport includes a horse). This wild winter ride is best run off for the experienced cross-country skier. For something a little more traditional, climb aboard a dog sled that's hitched to a team of Eskimo dogs and hurtle through a winter wonderland.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.novascotia.com

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

The Rock's underground scene

CAVING/CORNER BROOK The region's cave system is a hidden geological gem, and one of Newfoundland's most interesting hiking destinations. The caves were carved over the millennia by the flow of the Corner Brook Stream, and several local businesses offer guided tours of this underworld attraction. After a scenic hike down Corner Brook gorge, visitors can last up to three hours, during which visitors can follow the string of large rooms and tiny crevices about a kilometre underground. Crawl through the beautiful limestone scenery, or simply enjoy a break from the cold winter weather as the temperature in the caves varies little between the seasons.

WILDLIFE TRACKING-GORSE ICE WALKS/STEADY BROOK

It's easy for nature enthusiasts to lose track of time climbing past snow-capped mountains, while learning the secrets of animal tracking from an experienced guide. Hike through Gros Morne National Park or the snowy Blue-My-Down mountains before sitting down to a winter picnic. For those looking for a more physical test, ice walks through frozen waterfalls and a steep icy gorge are an exhilarating way to celebrate the natural beauty of winter.

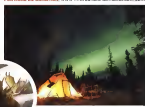
CRAWL THROUGH CORNER BROOK'S Limestone caves (below) always lie on moose alert; winter camping in Gros Morne, under the northern lights



GROS MORNE WINTER EXCURSION/GROS MORNE NATIONAL PARK (February to March) Crawl at, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing under the northern lights sound like a call to action for all northern Canadian winter wanderers. This five-day journey, which starts in a recharge any day's battery, begins with a four-hour hike, departing from Deer Lake and heading through snowy forests before ending up at a backcountry lodge. On the last day as the trails, guests head to Western Brook Pond, a lake surrounded by steep rock walls ascending 600 m, leading to one of the most stunning views in Canada.

YAKKIE YIKING JOURNEY/HAIN BROOK (January to April) On day one at the Tackamere Lodge, Yiking warriors in full armor arrive you year first before inviting you to an unforgettable "yell in" ceremony. The five-day trek includes snowmobiling to L'Anse aux Meadows, North America's only authentic Norse settlement. And don't forget your camera, since there's plenty of moose, caribou and Arctic foxes in the wilderness near the fishing communities of Lock's Cove and Inland Hight.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.newfoundlandandlabrador.com



NOVA SCOTIA

Eagles soar. Dogs skijor?

IN THE DEAD OF WINTER MUSIC FESTIVAL/HALIFAX (Jan. 26 to 30) The live Coast, and Halifax in particular, is known for a vibrant independent music scene. Since 2006, the DOW Festival, organized by a group of local musicians, has featured artists from Canada and the U.S. performing a series of acoustic sets in venues throughout the city. Past featured performers include Matt Maye, Joel Plaskett and Beck.

SHEPHERD HILLS EAGLE WATCH/SHEPHERD HILLS (The last two weekends in January) Every year, bald eagles make this

PHOTO: JACQUES/NOVA SCOTIA; TOP RIGHT: CIRCLE SOLUTION; RIGHT: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC/GETTY IMAGES; BOTTOM RIGHT: JACQUES/NOVA SCOTIA



FOR THOSE unimpressed by the cold, Nunavut offers no shortage of stunning views (clockwise, from top left): a couple of husky dogs in Yellowknife, celebrating the long-awaited sunrise in Inuvik, women's curlers checking out the Sourdough Rendezvous Festival

THE NORTH

Heads up: flying chainsaws

Yukon

THE SOUDOUGH RENDEZVOUS FESTIVAL/WHITEHORSE (July 20 to 27) After biding for months from sub-zero temperatures, Yukoners shake the collective cabin fever by dancing in mudruts, tossing chainsaws, and competing in floor picking, ice throwing and tag-a-truck games in a carnival-like atmosphere in downtown Whitehorse. Pickers and comedy acts are part of this four-day fest, during which something (usually a few people) scrap their feet on two-by-fours and race down the street in the favoured mode of travel. Costumes are a mandatory part of the festivities—any one caught by the “Koyone Kops” without a beard, or a woman not donning a garter belt in plain sight, is open to ridicule and paraded through the streets in a jail cell on wheels.

Northwest Territories

SUNRISE FESTIVAL/INUVIK (Jan. 31) During the summer, Canada’s northernmost town enjoys roughly 16 days of around-the-clock daylight. But come December, Inuvik (which lies two degrees above the Arctic Circle) is blanketed in darkness. So it’s little surprise that locals of the severely beautiful town, which straddles the tree line and northern boreal forest, celebrate the return of the sun in early January. Though a rather simple festival—the town

people gather for fireworks and a community bonfire as the sun first skitters over the horizon—it’s one of the purest ways of celebrating a connection with the land.

OGGLED TOURS/YELLOWKNIFE Whether you’re at the helm, commanding a team of dogs in the wintry landscape, or sitting back and enjoying the scenery and leaving the driving for the pros, a hot beverage around the crackling wood stove once it’s all done is a perfect way to cap off the day.

Nunavut

KUGLUK/BLOODY FALLS TERRITORIAL PARK For anyone wanting to view a landscape relatively untouched for thousands of years, the Kugluk/Bloody Falls Territorial Park is the site to see. Kugluk is the historical site of winter houses used by the Thule culture (ancestors of the Inuit), and a place to check remnants of reindeer hunting camps dating back 1,500 years. For safety reasons, however, it’s highly recommended that winter visitors travel with an outfitter who has a good grasp of the area. And don’t forget a toque.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.nunavut.ca/tourism
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jug cranks on wooden slabs qualify as butcher porn. Last month, the beloved master butcher broke down a complete steer and pig in front of a sold-out crowd in San Francisco at a *Meat-paper* sponsored event.

Alexander, a third-generation butcher, jokes that when he was growing up, butchering wasn't a way to impress women. The fact was that his dad's butchering "was cool factor" as well as his awe from being an exclusively male domain (Cumbria's employs one female butcher, *Amundin's*, a San Francisco butcher shop that sells locally sourced meat, is owned by three women.) Every day, he gets calls from young chefs. Some want to learn exactly where a flat iron steak comes from on a steer. Some want to switch careers.

Renowned chef Josh Apple and his wife, Jessica Applestone, are typical of the new-butcher breed. He was a vegan, she was a wine-taste vegetarian when they founded *Healer's Grass-fed and Organic Meats* in Kingston, N.Y., in 2004. Since then, *Food 52* Wine has named it one of America's best butcher shops, and the couple has launched "The Butcher" blog on *Scrivener*. They're now close friends with *Brooklyn* butcher Tom Hilder and the *Veg* Tom the Butcher. Jessica Applestone sees the resurgence of whole-animal practitioners as butchering as part of the emergence of an artisanal entrepreneurship movement. "All of these very well educated people have suddenly decided to go back to what's essentially blue collar work—chocolate makers, coffee roasters, bakers, bakers, bakers. It's come to be seen in this generation, very easy, very valuable thing to do," she says.

There's no better bellwether of butchery's new status than the fact farmer carcasses of the American are jumping on board. Mario Fiorucci was an environmental butcher before opening the *Hearty Butcher* in Toronto in 2005 with his wife, Tara Longa, a former lawyer. The two had been vegetarians due to the "degrading" quality of meat meat being sold, Fiorucci says. They now run three stores catering to eco-alkies, even clientele willing to pay top dollar for a dinner.

In a techno-twisting age, butchers' proximity to the raw truth of flesh and blood, muscle and bone has rekindled them with nostalgic joy. (It doesn't mean that they possess the muscular might to believe a carcass

of beef, and survive skills to get anything that moves.) In her upcoming memoir *Chasing a Powell's*, *Meat and Obsession*, Julie Powell writes of butchery "intimate knowledge." "Romantically, I imagine it's erotic, that his naked hands were knowing how to slice those whippersnappers." Chasing a Powell's follow-up to her bestseller *Julie & Julia*, in which she worked through every recipe in Julia Child's *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*, dined only her devoted husband, Joe. "This time, she's writing about her grueling time as an apprentice butcher at

Celebrity butcher Delfo Cecilio in his shop near Florence



It doesn't hurt that they possess the survivalist skills to gut anything that moves

Reider's. All the while, she's chatting on her laptop with a man who's a non-butcher. This being the fleshiest, it's the most, not the sex, that provides the book's biggest thrill: an encounter with her lover matches the "food island orgasm," Powell experiences following a creamy cube of pig's head.

Her biggest nemesis is by far, however, the "authentic" mused by the butchers around her. "There's an absolute assurance a butcher, whether he's teaching lamb chops with a bird sear or telling customers just how to prepare a crown roast," she writes. "Powell's not the only one among vegetarians over men in white smocks and cleavers." In another upcoming memoir, *The Butcher and the Vegetarian*

One Woman's Ramp Through a World of Men, *Meat and Moral Crisis*, former vegetarian Tara Austin Weaver tells the story of being ordered to eat meat by her doctor for her health. After initially soul-crushing, she finds herself attracted not only to pork chops but their purveyors. "A red-blooded Irish butcher makes me melt," she writes.

Butcher's emergence as cultural heart throbs follows a predictable trajectory. We start it with horses the fighters who captured the *Blondie* imagination and the *straw* season following 9/11, and with fix it, guys like Mike Hilder who become pig boys in an overhyped livestock market. All of them offer the promise of skilled finesse and the assurance of safety—in the case of butchers, that the meat they're providing isn't riddled with drugs or disease or was created cruelly. "People want to know where their meat comes from," says Roscoe Stern. "It's like going to your doctor, you depend on them. You want to make sure they are pure and good and honest."

Winkler agrees. "People are seeking a closer relationship with the food they eat," she says. *Artisanal* butchers are viewed as reducing a long lost artistry to its type with the best they're doing, unlike supermarket meat counters who dispatch most meats shipped in boxes from factories.

Butchers are forced to confront general truths, says Applestone. "People forget restaurants where their food comes from, but we never do," she says. "We have built our business on the backs of dead animals and we would that as our employees—that nothing is to be taken for granted, nothing is to be taken lightly and waste is not an option."

The knowledge that dinner has been thoughtfully raised and butchered, that's the ultimate seduction. Meat lovers can bite into a pasture-raised cow's head raw a *beef* from a farmer without having the pleasure weighed by guilt or fear.

Alexander understands the market and covers it in *Healed* and one Cumbria's location so that his well-heeled customers can see all the way to the back—the dangling carcasses and the skilled butchers at work. The transparency is a metaphor for what he's trying to achieve. The fact is literally a cartoon's creep show, the extreme in both the pain, well, that's just a trifling bonus. ■



TODAY'S SPECIAL—ALLIGATOR CHRISPE CAKE
New Orleans' Jacques-Im's Cafe promises to serve up "Real New Orleans Food"—including a spicy sausage chrispe cake made with alligator meat. In Louisiana, where the body is still a commodity, the meat shows up in all kinds of dishes, including this appetizer, which is made with shrimp, cheese and alligator sausage. (Don't worry, suggest a substituting alligator or smoked sausage for alligator, if you can't get the real thing.)

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STAR TREK: THE NEW CREW ARRIVES ON BLU-RAY AND DVD NOV. 17



LARGER-THAN-LIFE comedian Mo'Nique was at the Television Critics Association press tour in July to promote her new talk show.

The real reason to see 'Precious'

Mo'Nique creates one of the most ferocious female villains ever to grace the screen

BY BRIAN D. JOHNSON • Sometimes a movie becomes more than a movie; it turns into a movement. That's what has happened to *Precious*. It began in January, when its director, Lee Daniels, took a cellphone call from Oprah Winfrey as he was getting up to accept the Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival. Oprah told him his movie "spoke her eyes" and offered to throw her weight behind it. *Precious* went on to win the People's Choice Award at the Toronto International Film Festival and is generating massive Oscar buzz. In this year's *Shooting Myself* magazine, another understated drama of an abused ghetto child with showbiz dreams trying to overcome enormous odds. But *Precious* is the harrowing tale of a 16-year-old Harlem teen who's barely intelligent (described here by her father, maddeningly like a Disney movie). No movie heroine has ever grappled with more issues at once: she's black, poor, obese, abused, illiterate, unborn, pregnant and HIV positive.

Based on the novel *Pack by Sapphire*, *Precious* is fiction. But as the movie morphs into a case, its implicit message that becomes inseparable from the real-life personalities behind it, who have embraced the film as a healing technique to their own childhood horrors of sexual or physical abuse. The *IndieSapphire*, *Daniels*—and the two iconic models who signed on to the film after its premiere, Winfrey and Tyler Perry. But no one incarnates the horror of abuse more vividly than Mo'Nique, the 41-year-old power house who portrays the monstrous mother of the film's heroine. The actress says she drew directly on her own experience of suffering four years of abuse from her brother, starting at age seven. The director told her to "be a monster," she told the *New York Times*.

"And my brother was that monster to me. That's who I became."

Gabourey Sidibe, who stars as Claireece "Precious" Jones, says she had no prior experience. Her first experience in the film show *Precious* was capturing the hysterical Hollywood star. And like Jennifer Hudson in *Dreamgirls* or those musical kids from *Slaveship*, Sidibe is living the dream—an unlikely ingenue whose Cinderella success has turned into a life of hell. But the movie's real heart about race belongs to Mo'Nique. Already a dear Oscar favorite for Best Supporting Actress, she creates one of the most fearsome female villains ever to grace the screen. Pounding her daughter with toxic cracks, why is the woman from hell, that she's no cartoon? Mo'Nique channels her sexy intensity with aching realism, and even undercuts the horror with a measure of pathos. Somehow she generates empathy for a woman whose some cold soul seems beyond redemption.

The dramatic tour de force makes one wish for Mo'Nique, a larger than life comedienne known for lightening rules in *Black Girls*, *Denzelle* and television's *Ugly Betty*, *The Perfection*. A multi-talented power girl for plus-size women, she's also written two bestsellers, *Shiny Happy People* and *Not a Boy-Girl* is a *Small World*, and a cookbook called *Shiny Happy People's Kitchen*. And last month

Mo'Nique, who once worked as a phone sex operator, cracked the male barrier of late-night talk with her incendiary debut as host of *The Mo'Nique Show* on BET.

To tell it a talk show seems a misnomer; it's more like a debate show. From the moment she hits the stage in slaymaster heels—dripping in a tank gown from the house band, and whipping up her audience like a boss! James Brown—Mo'Nique is a force of nature. Pounding her own very black female empowerment, it's as if she's out to show all those skinny white dudes—Letterman, Fallon, Ferguson—that there's a new rock in late night. Her audience and her guests are almost exclusively black. Her opening monologue is a mix of a reversal and a ranting of one-liners. "The biggest thing about the Mo'Nique Show is love," she says. "The love group, no foundation." But there's a twist. Look back the *Black History Month*. "The only time you see us in our history books," she said, "is when we're in chains and we have to have black history all around us—we don't need to wait till February."

Growing up in Maryland as Mo'Nique Jones, she was inspired by a Baltimore talk show host named Oprah. "No little girl," she says, "I wanted that little woman who looked like me do the incredible show. And I said, 'Wow! I want to do this.' Now, thanks to Oprah, she's almost certainly Oscar-bound. What for the real missing acceptance speech? No doubt, it will be me" then just talk. M



WE'RE STALKING: NICOLAS CAGE

Nic Cage isn't just a snarky, another blemish on his old-school manager's actor recently filed a US\$20-million lawsuit against Samuel L. Lewis, who he says led him to "financial ruin." But maybe Cage should take a look at his own spending habits. Apparently, his purchases include a US\$276,000 dinosaur skull, 18 motorcycles, two castles and two private islands in the Bahamas. *Forbes* com reports that the star earned US\$40 million last year.

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ANCIENT SITES IN Afghanistan housed Indian, Chinese, Egyptian and Roman artifacts, which were hidden from the Soviets and the Taliban.

Hidden treasures from a lost city

Hundred of artifacts saved by Afghan museum staff in 1978 are now on display in Ottawa

BY MICHAEL PETROS • In northeastern

Afghanistan, where the incoherent voices of the Kuchika River flow into the silky gray expanse of the Arghandab River, what topped hill rises above the valley below its eastern slope is granite and can be easily climbed, while its western side rises on a cliff on which one can stand and, on clear days, see the snow-capped Hindu Kush rise above the distant horizon. One of Alexander the Great's generals built a city here in the fourth century B.C., complete with a theatre, gymnasium and palace. The culture that flourished in the city showed its Greek roots, but also the influence of civilizations in Mesopotamia, Persia, and the Indian subcontinent. The city, likely named Alexandria on the Oxus, was a hub, where people and ideas from around the world intermingled. Less than 200 years after it was founded, nomads from the Central Asian steppe intruded. Alexandria on the Oxus was lost to history for 2,000 years.

It was rediscovered in 1961 when a local peasant showed a stone fragment to Afghan King Zahir Shah, who was hunting in the area. The king recognized the artifact's importance as Alexander's Farnak art historian, who began excavations. Then the Soviets invaded. Their occupation was followed by years of civil war. Alexandria on the Oxus, now known by its Uzbek name, Ai Khanum, or Lady Moana, was destroyed once again.

When I visited it in the fall of 2001, the faint lines of the ancient Taliban Northern Alliance militia ran right through the sand-covered ruins of the city. It was out of range of all but the laughter of Taliban children, yet it commanded a magnificent view of their present conflict zone. An old Soviet tank stood in the near to where the ancient citadel used to

stand, and an exquisite Corinthian column lay in the dust just behind shallow trenches where teenage Afghan soldiers trash-talked their Taliban counterparts on walkie-talkies. Pottery shards were everywhere. I'm ashamed to say I pocketed a few and thereby added my name to the long list of academics who have plundered the ancient world. But with smoke rising from U.S. airstrikes on Taliban lines just a few kilometers away, the odds of any artifacts from Ai Khanum ever making it into a museum seemed vanishingly small.

What almost no one knew at the time was that a small group of heroic Afghans had already taken steps to ensure that Ai Khanum's treasures were protected and would one day be shown to the world. In 2003, with decades of dust swirling about, staff at the National Museum of Afghanistan in Kabul had five tons of artifacts from across the country in vaults in the basement of the presidential palace. These vaults were opened in 2005. Their contents now form a travelling exhibition that will be at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Gatineau until the end of March.

Afghanistan's Hidden Treasures is spectacular. The artifacts are drawn from four sites, including Ai Khanum. One set dates from the Bronze Age, about 4,000 years ago. The other three are from the Hellenistic period, when Alexander's generals and their suc-

cessors ruled kingdoms in the Near East and Central Asia. The Silk Road trading route flourished at this time, and caravans from the Far East, the Mediterranean, and South Asia met in Afghanistan. They carried with them sculptures of Indian ivory, Chinese silver mirrors, Egyptian glass, and Roman bronze. Imported traditions blended with local ones. Some of the most striking artifacts come from tombs of the nomads from the north who migrated into Afghanistan and displaced Alexander's descendants. These include an ornate gold and turquoise pendant of a man wearing a dragon, and show artistic influences from as far away as Siberia.

"Today it is hard for visitors to understand how interconnected the world has been from a very early time," says Moore McCaffrey, our guide for the exhibition at the Canadian Museum of Civilization. The artifacts on display give some way toward making that clear. They also demonstrate how right the Kabul museum curators were to hide these treasures during Afghanistan's decades of war. In 2007, archaeologists digging at Ai Khanum discovered a statue of a young man broken into 29 fragments. They glued them together and displayed the salvaged piece of art at the National Museum of Afghanistan. When the Taliban took Kabul, they decided the statue was blasphemous and destroyed it. It has since been reassembled once more and is now part of the travelling exhibition. But the Taliban smashed the young man's face beyond repair. ■



NOW SHOWING • RUBIK'S CUBE MONA LISA

Where one might normally try a paintbrush, Toronto artist Josh Chalton uses Rubik's Cubes. He and his team used 40,000, sometimes thousands, of the puzzles to recreate classic art like Leonardo's *The Last Supper*, or Andy Warhol's pop-art version of Marilyn Monroe. It's no simple task—first a graphic artist designs a computer blueprint using the six Rubik colors, then the artists hand-build the cubes into the design.

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stage



AMONG the cast of the whimsical *Finian's Rainbow*: (left to right) Paige Sorensen, Christopher Fitzgerald and Christopher Banger

The best-ever music in a musical?

'Finian's Rainbow' stands out at a time when hit musicals tend to lack memorable songs

BY JAIME J. WEINMAN • What have Broadway musicals been missing? Great songs. *Finian's Rainbow*, the 1947 musical whose first over Broadway revival opened Oct. 29, was once considered too dated to produce: the script, about a leprechaun and a pot of gold in a fictional U.S. state called "Missitucky," is a strange combination of political satire and whimsy. But the revival, based on a popular concert performance, is getting some of the strongest reviews of any musical this season. And the main thing critics are singing out is the score. Lyricists Herbert K. Y. "Pop" Harburg (*The Wizard of Oz*) and composer Thornton Lane (*It Could Be the Best of All Possible Worlds*) wrote for a Broadway musical. "I don't think I've ever seen a score musically satisfying Broadway show," marvelled Terry Jewison in the *Wall Street Journal*. At a time when hit musicals have few memorable songs—scores like *Avatar*, *Spider-Man* and *The Descendants* are filled with parody songs that aren't always supposed to be successful on their own—it's no wonder that audiences may be ready to rediscover the pleasures of what lyricist/librettist Michael Colby (*Gladiator* *Sweet*) describes to *Maclean's* as "a score where every song is a gem."

Throughout *Finian's* song (*How Are Things in Gloam Morra*) became a pop hit, most of the score hasn't become as familiar as other Broadway classics. Which may be why theatre goers are delighting in the songs as if they're new: they haven't been overexposed. But it's also because Harburg and Lane filled the score with what Harburg's son Ronan, author of the book *Who Put the Rainbow in the Sky* and *Off, Off, Off*, calls "a variety of styles unlike any other Broadway show." There's gospel, show-tune classical, there's Irish jigs.

Broadway musicals aren't known for unexpected pleasures, but every song in *Finian* does something unexpected. The first song is a mixture of blues, folk music and Broadway showstopper, while the climactic number, *When I'm Not Near The Girl I Love*, sung by a leprechaun who's turned into a horse, girl chasing human, combines a lush waltz with a contralto lyric full of wordplay and strange rhythms like "lickle" and "paradele." The big ballad, *Old Devil Moon*, is unusually very and passionate for a Broadway love song. Lane's tunes have unusual structures while being accessible and hummable, and Harburg's lyrics combine wit with realistic tragedy: "My first love to dance on the moon / My final vision to rise in the shade / The Lord says 'Go out and burn this' / Don't be lechered say 'Your car ain't paid!'"

For many years, the only thing standing in the way of a *Finian* revival was the script, by Harburg and Fred Sauter. It jokes about communism as often very specific to the late '40s. And producers were wary of a major plot point about a man's treasure who is magically transformed into a black man, both the original production and Frances Ford Coppola's 1963 film version used a white actor as MacDuff. The revival has gone a long way toward fixing these problems: it plays up the fact that the score is newly relevant during

the recession—especially the song *The Great Green And Grin Day*, a hymn to buying products you can't afford—and it uses two actors, one white and one black, to play the leprechaun. Still, critics have expressed reservations about the story, with *Theater* criticizing its "whimsy whimsy and wacky wacky story." The songs, the dancing, and the cast (headed by Chelcie Jackson and Kate Latta) won't do the romantic leads; instead the audience more from a script that still has weak spots.

The fact that *Finian* concentrates on the songs as the prime of the book might actually be a relief to audiences in an era when musicals seem to be strong in every department except songs. *Finian* has a minimalist set, some cues in the script, and it takes what Colby calls "no-compromise, no plugging in 'stars' to ensure box office." Many musicals distract us from weak songs, *Finian* wants to focus attention on Lane's tunes and Harburg's lyrics. Like "And when all your employees are upper class / You won't know your Janitor from your Auditor."

A revival of another classic, *My Darling Clementine*, opened shortly before *Finian* did, to a tepid reception. That production adds a song that wasn't in the stage version, or orchestrates the music, and it built around a TV star, John Stamos. *Finian* takes the opposite approach, making the material. If the reviews translate into box office, it may prove musicals don't need lavish sets or even a problems-free book. They just need to be, well, musical. ■



PERFORMANCE OF THE WEEK — CUSACK CLIMBES

To mark the 20th anniversary of *Cornelia Drake's Say Anything*, dozens of theatre-dad-dad stars marched through the streets of New York City, on homages to the scene where John Cusack's character tries to gain the affections of an out-of-the-logic girl by blowing in Peter Gabriel's hand outside her window. The 20th wound up at Times Square, where the *Eye* from *Eye-Beam* beams hoisted above their heads the entire way.



WERNER (center) with the Mat Run Club Trio in 1988. The photo shoot for Werner's 2000 CD, *The Ashtray*, Thomas and the Radio Co.

Johnny Mercer, Moon River and me

The famous songwriter was born 100 years ago this month. He once saved Steyn's night.



MAJOR STUDIES


 We're after the same rare
 how's that?
 Waiting round the bend
 My blackberry found
 Moon River and we

MARK STEIN Where in Moon River? Everywhere and nowhere! But, if you had to put it down, you'd find it musingly at best 700 miles physically somewhere in the neighborhood of Savannah, Georgia. At one point, the town's most celebrated musical instrument was an old, hard-wooded banjo, the Vamp of Savannah. But then the American Singalong's huddieberry friend showed up. John Harris in Moon River is basically 100 years young. Nov. 28, 1909. The family here, the Mancos Music, is the setting for the most famous book written about Savannah, *Middle Georgia*, by the author of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*. And *Clara* is the film inside the connection between: explain with old Moore soundtracks, Russian Sings! singing that Old Black Swan, a little long story, Thana and Mable, and Clara. Clara herself taking a respectable thrush at Art and Mike at the Pension.

Johnny once didn't sing at Savannah as a teenager he spent away on a ship to New York and the bright lights—but a lot of Savannah lingered in him. To mark his century, Kluge has produced the latest in his series of lavishly, handmade coffee-table "Complete Lyrics" albums: his producers are in the not so Gold Coast, Irving Berlin, Lorenz Hart, Cole Porter, Oscar Hammerstein—the Broadway guys who wrote songs for the characters and plots, books for the others; for some lyric writers, that's who they are. Cole Porter "pauz[ing] the parquet" (in his words) as he paces his penthouse looking at the nubile females for a

sophisticated triple-headed sixth chorus in the second act, name dropping all his Park Avenue pals. Mercer never had a real Broadway hit, but he's the link between New York's songwriting royalty and a more rural tradition. Like Hart and Gershwin, he was a fan of W.S. Gilbert and the Savoy Operas. Unlike them, he also had an eye for the great American landscape west of the Hudson River.

From Natchez to Mobile
From Memphis to St. Joe
Wherever the four winds blow
I hear no more log houses
Where no more log hulk
But there is one thing I know—
Blues is the thing written for some
nothing like in 1944 that
didn't even know what it
had. Harold Arlen's song is
less a 12-bar blues than a
50-bar blues one, its har-
mony full of plavine love
some waltzes, and Mercer's lyric reflects
the blues density of aspiration for a land of
highly more vernacular poetry.

New the train's a joltin'
Rear the train's a cinch
Whoo-ee!
(City means down but not out)
Rear that locomotive whistle
Blowin' coast the tracks
Whoo-ee!
(City means down but not out)

He loved trains, hotel planes. So he wrote great train songs. On the *Arkansas*, *Tippecanoe* and the *Seneca*. *(I took a train to a train and I thought About You. And you see Ladies - On a train that's passing through.)* "In *Goodbye* or *Larry Hart* would never have heard the music in that 'locomotive whistle'."

For one thing, it doesn't even rhyme with "trickle." It just fits in some strange organic way you can't precisely define. That's how he approached the job: to not suggest a sound, a sound suggests certain syllables, and even faintly a word or a thought will emerge and you're in business.

In the forties, he founded Capitol Records and became a big pop singer with a lot of Top 10 records and a handful of number ones, not just of his songs but of other folks' ("Zip-a-De-Do-Do-Dee"). It was famously said of Bing Crosby that he sang like every guy in America thought he sounded like when he sang in the shower. But, if anything, that description applies more to Marvin than Bing. During those years, Marvin took the blues and R&B duetted together. Born from the blues as the seventies' "There's something about that Steppenwolf blues" that gave him a warm melody tone that sounded

The following day, he would feel bad. Many florists benefited from his guilt.

like a regular gay jen' wandering from the living room to the backyard and maybe out onto the golf course and doing a little wanking along the way. And, in part, because he sang himself, his songs have a singable ease. He liked to say that writing music took more talent but writing lyrics took more coarseness.

There can be beguiling and sensual and evocative and a bunch of other vagaries but the lyrics has to sit down and get specific and put words on top of those notes. Stick an overripe adjective or an awkward image in there and a vaguely pleasant melody is suddenly precious or contrived or ridiculous. Not in *Radi Kuli* or *Japen Croquet*. With *Mexico* you nearly hear the false tink of an over-clever word in a love ballad or an obscure rhyme in a rural charm song.

HBSPC did need to use written word from more inland, but writing fixers took more resources.

That said, he gave the movie industry its theme song and turned it up in a single couplet:

Hokey For Hollywood
Where you're terrific if you're even good
And have about this rhythm? Spring, Spring
Spring is a catalogue song, a laundry list of
the joys of the mating season when "the barn-
yard is busy / in a regular way" (i.e., also
getting through the various fairs of the birds
and the bees, the fish and the fowl, Menck
draws us this:

To stuff each crumbe
Safely cross "Ach, da hebe"
A biological and bilingual rhyme that's
positively Portuguese

Menor wrote *Spring, Spring, Spring* and *Summer Wind* and always wanted to write a Christmas standard but never managed a song (though his rendering of *White Christmas* is terrific). But what he really liked was autumn. Lyrics-wise, he got all kinds of autumn songs of necessity because a lot of his work from the last five years, *Yes, the days grow short when you reach September and decide dinner to a green soup stew and whatnot*, but Menor chose to embrace (in one of his hits) his "Early Autumn." Therefore came Autumn Leaves and *When the World Was You and I*.

The Days of Wine and Roses
Laugh and run away
Take a child or play
The lonely night dances
Just a passing breeze
Filled with memories...

Moments later, said Lane, "you can never quite recall" Messer because near silence with the strains of matrimony, of love and youth. Along the way, there was a list of wine, straight, and more the morning after. He was the nicest guy, and the nicest—once the bottle got south of two inches from the bottom. The following day, he'd feel bad about being a means drunk to a close friend or a casual acquaintance or the cocktail waitress, and even then he'd be freed from his guilt. But,

Jo Stafford told to him, as he staggered up to her one evening, "Please, John. I don't want any of your roses in the morning." It'd been when, he'd have written that down as a potential catch, the way he did with Goody Goody and P.S. I Love You. But he was sufficiently self-aware not to cross those a few years out of

Drinking Apies
 And think'ng of when you loved me
 Having a few
 And wish'ng that you were here
 Making the rounds
 And buy'ng the rounds for strangers
 Swears that this one, and he loved Mar-
 cor's all time great saloon song
 It's quarter to three
 There's no one in the place except you and
 me

So set him up, for
I got a little story you oughta know —
So supposedly he wrote that memoirs after
a doomed affair with Judy Garland, but we
only found that out years later. Like he said,
Could tell you a lot

But you've got
To be true to your code
Make it One For My Baby
And One More For The Road ...

Thinking about Motown songs for this column, I remembered a night long ago when a man slip of a lad, I took a girl I adored to a country club dance I couldn't really afford. Johnny Motown saved the night for me: the master of overcomes announced his competition. It was, you had to answer a simple question:

"Wider than a mile," of course. We won a magazine of champagne, and the waiters treated us like royalty. A magical night like the days of wine and roses laugh and run away toward a dawning day, a door marked "Nevermore." . . . Conspiring up that evening for the first time in years, I wondered about my lost love, and whether that country club was still there. But then I remembered Mrs.

MACLEAN'S BESTSELLERS

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Florian

- | | | |
|----|---|----------|
| 3 | THE GOO SYMBOL by Dan Brown | 3.0 (3) |
| 2 | GOO MUCH HAPPINESS by Alan Watts | 5.0 (1) |
| 1 | LAST NIGHT IN THIRSTED RIVER by John Irving | 3.0 (1) |
| 4 | THE YEAR OF THE FLOOD by Margaret Atwood | 5.0 (0) |
| 5 | GAUDE by Michael Cramsey | 4.0 (0) |
| 6 | THE GOLDEN REIN by Jennifer Lurie | 4.0 (0) |
| 7 | NEE REAPERS, SPINSTER! by Andrew Hollibaugh | 4.0 (0) |
| 8 | THE MUSKIEB OF INADEQUATE by Graham Phillips | 4.0 (0) |
| 9 | THE GIRL WHO PLAYED WITH FIRE by Siobhán Carson | 10.0 (0) |
| 10 | THE BEDROOM MAN | 8.0 (0) |

Non-fiction

- | | | |
|----|---|-------|
| 1 | JUST WROTE ME by John English | \$126 |
| 2 | A SOLDIER FIRST by Rick Miller | 122 |
| 3 | THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH by Richard Gere | 210 |
| 4 | QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER by William Bradford Huie | 18 |
| 5 | THE CASE FOR GOD by Karen Armstrong | 417 |
| 6 | WHAT THE GOD SAW by Malcolm Gladwell | 418 |
| 7 | TRUE COMRADE by Edward Kennedy | 803 |
| 8 | OUTLINES by Malcolm Gladwell | 1019 |
| 9 | SUPERHEROES AND GODS by Scott L. Pratt and Stephen J. Schubert | 15 |
| 10 | THE CUBO SETS by Eric Sirota | 1194 |

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over land cost me all that, too.

Timothy's last stop on his way to the main hall started down...

Meeting before his death in 1996, he is said to be in his 70s; "one of the best of Plover as Harlan and Cornelia was to be 'married and taught in schools, and collected and forgotten. But we're getting mighty near now, and he's still singing Johnny Mercer. He's quarter to three, and somewhere out there Willie Norcross is going to his new record of Cornelia or Cornelia's second record. Double's clomping heavily successful first record, vulgar record of Mitocor and Marcia's Alpha Stream from The Pink Panther.

See him up, Joe and drop another nickel in the machine. ■

MARILYN MACKay

1951-2009

Ailing herself, she campaigned tirelessly for more government aid for out-of-province patients

Marilyn MacKay was born in Sydney River, N.S., on June 8, 1951, to Marion and Frank Rossiter, who worked at a nearby steel plant while Marion stayed home with the kids. With two older brothers and a younger sister, little Marilyn was "labeled fat," says Laura Orpin, who grew up across the street. One night, Marilyn and Laura decided to paint nine-year-old sister Karen's car. "We and we'd only do it if she didn't bowl," says Orpin, now 62. "We got a posse and put a handkerchief on, and put a towel on her mouth."

Karen, pleased with the new look, had her parents' car behind her hair as her parents' wouldn't cut. After high school, Marilyn moved to Halifax to find a job. A railroad cook, she got work in the kitchen at the Victoria General Hospital, and soon moved to work a friend, Glenda MacKay. One night, Glenda's brother Ken came for a visit, and was struck by Marilyn, who wore her light brown hair almost to her waist. "She was such a happy person," says Ken, now 58. "I was house that night thinking, what an incredible girl! They were married in a double wedding on July 13, 1974, with Ken and her friends."

In 1976, the couple bought their first home in Sydney River. Ken was working at a merchandise company 650-5000 Drug Mart, the company asked to transfer him to New Brunswick, but he and Marilyn "wanted to settle down and have a family." Instead, they moved to nearby Annapolis on Lake Madam, and opened MacKay's General Store. Ken claims they were the first to sell frozen pizza, which was soon on the menu at places in Halifax, too. "Should have passed it," he jokes.

In 1980, the couple's first child, Andrew, was born, eight weeks premature. "The first 30 days, he was in the hospital, and his lungs weren't developed," Ken says. "I was every 'You'd walk in there, and see a little three-pound child, looked up so temperature potholes.' (Today, Andrew is 'healthy as a horse.' his father says.) After Mark was born in 1984, the boys would play in the ocean, which was attached to the family home, while their parents mended the coastline. In 1994, struggling to cope with bigger chains, they finally sold Ken's job at Clearwater, a seafood company. Marilyn worked at a restaurant, where her cooking was always in demand.

A few years ago, Marilyn started having "a little tickle in the

back of her throat," Ken says, but it didn't seem too serious. In 2006, at the cemetery for her mother's burial, she "took an awful coughing spell," and had to go straight to the hospital. Her lungs, she was told, were packed with scar tissue. "The doctors figured when she was little, she had double pneumonia, and scar tissue formed inside the lung," Ken says. "Over the years, it piled together." Marilyn would need a double lung transplant.

But the procedure isn't available in Nova Scotia, so the family flew to August 2007, arriving in with his brother Bobby in Mississauga, and later with a nephew and niece in Oakville, to wait for a new set of lungs. At the time, the Nova Scotia government didn't cover travel and living expenses for patients like Marilyn, so money was tight; by August of last year, Ken and Marilyn's savings were nearly gone. She almost had to give up and come home, until the Lung Association of Nova Scotia stepped in. The couple campaigned tirelessly for funding from the provincial government, making Marilyn the "youngest child of the whole campaign," says Dartmouth resident Trevor Chisholm, who was on the lung transplant program with Marilyn (he got a double lung transplant in 2007). Their actions paid off when, last December, Nova Scotia said it would put \$1,500 a month toward living expenses for out-of-province patients like Marilyn. "We finally got the money," Ken says. "She was really happy."

But the money wasn't enough. Waiting for new lungs, Marilyn had to stay within two hours of the hospital at all times, in case they became available, and couldn't return to Annapolis. Despite frequent visits from loved ones, Marilyn was "lonely," Ken says. In October, Marilyn finally got the call: her lungs were ready. The procedure was a complete success, Ken says. Two days later, Marilyn was singing. Over the months with happiness, "I thanked her for the 35 years, and the two beautiful sons she gave me," Ken says. "I told her that, if I ever had the chance, I would never change a thing." On the third day (perhaps due to an infection, Marilyn took a turn for the worse. Her heart rate skyrocketed, her blood pressure went down, her lungs, Ken says, filled with fluid. Marilyn died not one week after the transplant that she'd spent more than two years waiting and fighting for. She was 58 years old.

BY KATE LONIAU



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2010 Outback 3.6R model shown.††

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†MSRP of \$28,995 on 2010 Outback PZEV (A01PZ), a Partial Zero Emission Vehicle (PZEV). See www.subaru.ca for details. ††Model shown is 2010 Outback 3.6R (A0736). MSRP of \$35,695. Freight, PDI, license, insurance, registration and taxes are extra. Vehicle shown solely for purposes of illustration and may not be equipped exactly as shown.